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AZUL!!!

In the course of human events and, like sands through the hourglass, there comes moments in time when the course and cadence of time's incessant march must give in to the winds of change. With the new tidal wave of provincial activity and with the passage of RZ1: The Maricopan Elections Already! Act, the stage is set for the historic transformation of our Maricopa Province from a tumbleweed wilderness of military dictatorship to the tumbleweed paradise of full democratic and Organic Autonomy!!

This is a new epoch for the history of this province, and, while honoring, revering, and learning from the past, **muc'häps** intends to cover every bit of our glorious present and even-more glorious future!! Thank you for your support!!

Jeffrey Ragsdale, Editor-in-Chief

Albrec'ht Stolfi, Assistant Editor

Chris Gruber, Master of All Beats, Pacaria.org



ELEZIUN Spring, 2001

With the passing of RZ1: The Maricopan Elections, Already! Act, the official snowball of Maricopan democracy was put into full motion. Citizen Jeffrey Ragsdale of Houston, TX was on January 24 appointed by Military Governor John Minot as our provincial Secretary of State. Ragsdale received an unexpected gift when Gov. Minot put into force the failed Government Holiday Act for the province. Dec. 21-Jan. 1, May 30, Thanksgiving Weekend (Wed.-Sun.), and August 2-8 are the dates during which the SoS does not have to do any official business at all. However, Mr. Ragsdale will not be enforcing this legislation unless he deems it necessary.:)

On Saturday, February 17, the nomination forms for the upcoming election were posted, thus putting into motion for the first time in the history of Maricopa the mechanics of democracy!! Watch your mailboxes!



GRIIRTI!!!

The greatest web dude in Talossa speaks of Aquamarine, provincial politics, and other things. This interview was conducted on Feb. 19, 2001

muc'häps: Hallo!

CG: Hallo to you too!

muc'häps: Chris, I cannot thank you enough for the generous offer you have made to all of us Talossans in regard to doing Talossan web pages. The time and resources invested in this are valued and appreciated!!

CG: Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

muc'häps: You're welcome!

CG: I love designing sites. :-) Pretty soon you can go to pacaria.org (should be up today at <http://www.talossa.com/~chris/pacaria> to check out examples of my work. (EIC's note: Go there!! Chris' work is awesome!!)

muc'häps: 1. Let me first use the magic word: Pleeeeeeeease!!! :)

CG: Okey. :-)

muc'häps: 2. Aquamarine stands out as the leader and the original catalyst of the recent surge in provincial politics. Is that right?

CG: I'd like to think so. When I started Aquamarine, it was intended to be a way to revitalise the dying interest in provincial politics -- especially in MM. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Michael Pope and Phil Ledgerwood, Aquamarine became something we can be proud of. Check out www.cafepress.com/aquamarine for proof!

muc'häps: 3. Please tell the story of the founding of Aquamarine.

CG: In February of last year, I was sitting around, trying to figure out some way I could invigorate activity, provincial-wise, in Maritiimi-Maxhestic. I came up with idea of a political party; it still seems like a good start. You could even ask John Minot why he started the Roadrunner Party of Maricopa -- quite possibly for the same reason. The name "Aquamarine" came from my own birthstone -- March/Pisces. A little bit of arrogance on my part, but a unique name, wouldn't you say? Since then, Michael Pope and Phil Ledgerwood have joined actively, and I declared John Jahn a member -- if he doesn't say otherwise! :-)

muc'häps: 4. Given what seems to be great Organic limitations, what can a province do for its people??

CG: We can provide pride and leadership for those assigned to a province, while giving a voice to those Talossans who do not hold a seat in the Ziu or the Government.

muc'häps: 5. What are your thoughts on provincial politics in general??

CG: It seems that, given the increase of immigrants over recent years, that provincial politics is going to be a major focus eventually. Only so many people can fit into the national government, but provinces afford more people an opportunity to serve.

muc'häps: 6. Anything else that comes to mind!

CG: Go Yankees! 




STOLFI UPDATES THE MARICOPAN FLAG

You can say goodbye to those tacky paintbrush colours our flag used to sport. Albrec'ht Stolfi decided to "update" the flag using state-of-the-art computer graphics programs (okay, so it was just PhotoShop). He replaced the lime-green and cool-aid orange for darker, more sober tones, preserving the flag's deep and ancient significance yet adding a more respectable look to it.




"It was just too amateurish for me", said Stolfi. "Plus it hurt my eyes whenever I'd look at it -- so that's why I opted for darker shades of green and orange."

at it, so that's why I opted for darker shades of green and orange.

Whether or not Stolfi's version will be accepted as the official *de facto* provincial flag is still to be seen. 



RAVES & RANTS

The title of this regular section is a tribute to *Wired* magazine and its beautiful and frighteningly (in a good way) [accurate assesment](#) of Talossa. and its regular "rants and raves" letters section. Send your flames and praises and see your masterpiece here. So far, space is not a concern for us. 



JEFF RAGSDALE:

An in-depth interview with our new provincial SoS

We sat down and spoke with Jeff Ragsdale, our new Maricopa SoS, on Monday, February 19, 2001. Like Chris Gruber, he impressed us with his candor, wit, intelligence, and humor. We at **muc'häps** rest easy knowing full well he is at the electoral helm!

muc'häps: Mr. Secretary, this is an exciting time for Maricopa!

JR: Indeed it is! Maricopa was formed from the Southwest Territories in 1996. For a while, it seemed that the road to full Organic certification would be quickly trod, but a computer catastrophe plus the rigors of non-RT schedules got in the way and derailed things for a great while. However, thanks to citizen Dale Morris, good work was done. Go to the [Unofficial Maricopa Home Page](#). When you do, make certain to save the web page as a HTML file on your hard drive or other storage medium. Remember, this is a Geocities page and, if I understand rightly, Geocities pages sometimes like to sprout wings and fly away. I avoid that company like the plague. Hopefully, my misgivings

about that company are way off-base.

muc'häps: Tell us more about this election.

JR: RZ1 will, for the time being, act as a de facto provisional constitution. The new administration will hopefully bring about new changes and a more-substantial document to tide us over during the journey to full Organic provincial certification. Look also at 97OrgLaw, Article XVI, Section 13. Unfortunately, we are far, far away from that lofty goal. It is my speculation as well as others that we would need at least twenty active Maricopans to really keep a fully-elected government and legislature functioning. Right now, we have seven to nine truly active people.

muc'häps: Just how historic is this election??

JR: As far as I can tell, this is the first time an attempt at full Maricopan democracy has ever gone this far. This is most likely the very first election ever held in the province of Maricopa!

muc'häps: When we talk about Maricopan history and her culture, what should we think about?

JR: Look at the [Unofficial Maricopan Home Page](#). That page says more in more eloquent terms than I could ever come up with.

muc'häps: To change to subject back a little, how long do you think we should expect for Maricopa to reach full Organic autonomy?

JR: If luck is on our side, two years. If not, five to ten. [It all depends on](#) how many new and active Maricopans come our way. Look to the [provincial website](#) on Maricopa to see where our citizens are assigned from.

muc'häps: Would you remain in Talossa that long? You're really here for the long haul,

aren't you??

JR: God willing, yes on both counts. Whether I would be SoS that long?? I don't know. I highly doubt it. Life is just too unpredictable to really make accurate predictions like that. Short-term, i.e. a year from now, I fully expect to be active in Talossa and in Maricopa. I also have every intention of remaining Maricopa's SoS for a long, long while!

muc'häps: Why did you become a Talossan?

JR: The idea of starting one's own country fascinated me. The article in the March, 2000 *Wired* magazine gave me the credibility I needed to make certain these Talossans were not just a bunch of web geeks like all the bug nations out there. The language is something I thought I would have gotten more into, but that has not happened yet. When I was first naturalized last summer, I never thought I would have been an MC (and then happily resign) so soon. I also never dreamed I would have been a provincial SoS!!

muc'häps: Would you ever support a Maricopan discussion forum?

JR: NO!!! Please remember, we are *Talossans* FIRST and Maricopans second!! With all the distance separating so much of us, particularly those in Cezembre and our Talossans in South America, we must have as much as we can scrape together to unite us. Wittenberg does just that. I can tell you now that if provincial life starts to edge out our unified national consciousness, I will quit the provincial scene in a heartbeat. I joined *Talossa*. Maricopa and all the fun it has given me so far is but ancilliary icing on the cake.

muc'häps: You are very active in the RCT.

JR: Yes, I am. However, I do not have any desire to inject national politics into the provincial Maricopan scene. The political vision I have for Maricopa is the exact opposite of what now exists in Maritiimi-Maxhestic: a situation where national and provincial politics are seamless. A very successful situation for that province, I might add!! More power to them!!!

muc'häps: Oho!! Methinks I hear a wee bit of ambition in your tone, Mr. Secretary;))!

JR: Get your MiracleEar fixed;). I have no desire to and I will not seek the office of Governor or Governor-Designate now or at any time in the near future. I would not mind being Senator someday, though. But that is way down the line.


muc'häps: To get back to the business at hand, what dates should we watch for?

JR: March 15 is the date all nominations must be physically in my hand!!! To give everyone a level playing field, remember that only snail-mailed completed nomination forms are acceptable. Absolutely no emailed nominations or nominations made by proxy transmitted by any means will be accepted. If we are unable to get a mailing address for Pete Hottelet, I may be forced to make an exception for him. I will mail out the official ballots no later than March 17. The voted ballots must be in my hands no later than April 21. IF I GET YOUR BALLOT ON APRIL 22, IT WILL NOT COUNT!!!:) April 21 is the absolute drop-dead last day I can close the polls and still be in compliance with RZ1. Write-in votes will be allowed and the election will be open ballot like the national ones are already.

muc'häps: If someone wanted to see a tangible result of Maricopan contributions to Talossa, what could one look for??

JR: Albrec'ht Stolfi and Paola Cleri have been major contributors to the [Cezembrian Arts Centre](#). It's not *all* about politics, you know.:)

muc'häps: Mr. Secretary, thank you so much for taking the time to be with us today!


JR: With the increase in the number of our citizens, provincial politics will give more people places to be leaders and serve! Thank you for having me! 



WELL, FOR PETE'S SAKE!

Our esteemed Maricopa SoS needs your help!! While the email for Pete Hottelet is

good, no one, it seems has a mailing address for him. His Majesty, the King, has no idea, the national SoS, David Fauteaux has no information, and Military Governor John Minot has informed the SoS that Pete has fallen off the face of the earth!!

He did vote in the most recent election, though. Check [the results and his vote](#). The search for something definite on him continues. 



RZ1: THE FULL TEXT OF The Maricopan Elections Already! ACT

*RZ1-- La Rezoluziun da Eleziuns Maricopâes Strax!
urêu q'estrada sâ: Iân Miaschür, PC-Maricopa*

TANDI QË, la provîncû gloriös da Maricopa tent lengat trô lung sub el spietoûr üpectat dal Apapéticâ, és

TANDI QË, la ciumisâ dels votéirs isch, à la pû, sex, com'acest isch ün governamaintsch operat és represantiu distanteu, és

TANDI QË, pëR që ün governamaintsch pû schpéit, certifiavâl remasarha txamáis, fost-ça tirë anteceisoûrs, qi zonarha à ça citaxhiëns ün "glünâ," és

TANDI QË, iñen rësponçivâlitâ proftâ el Governadéir serà ün cînxh benvenescû del süstêm corentic, és

TANDI QË, ça remâina la intendonça, që la lexhislazium sovînd non zonarha à la provîncû da Maricopa aucün certifiaziun ufiçial,

PËR ACEASTÂ RAZIUN:

I. El Ziu arelinqua propriâmînt ça drept, à apîntar el Governadéir Militâr à la provîncû ûncertifiat da Maricopa, és o serà çoiçat daincêts democrâticmînt.

II. El Governadéir Militâr isch comandat, që o apîntarha ün Secretâr D'etat pëR Maricopa, qi ilesnarha ünâ eleziun pëR el posteu del Governadéir cün las criteriuns sovînd:

- a. Las urnâs serent âpnescû pr'iens mes acûrat, és la eleziun començarha, pû schpéit, douâ mesen ospréi la validaziun da aceastâ rezoluziun.*
- b. Quand që las urnâs âpnent, el Secretâr D'etat tischâ colectat las nominaziuns da toct els quairéirs és tischâ asigûrat á lor ün list dels adreçéux (del és telepôst és phôst) dels citaxhiëns contactavâis da Maricopa.*
- c. El recepatôr del püpärts da votâs (cün eleziuns secundârs, schi aucün candidäts non reçaifadra el püpärts) prîndarha el posteu quand që las urnâs ferment.*
- d. Els posteux del Governadéir és Senätsesc da Maricopa non serent ocupat simultánmînt d'iensâ personâ.*

III. În toct las eleziuns Maricopâes presidâis ospréi aceastâ, el mismeu procedançeü serà uveidiat, és el gagñhéir dal eleziun proxim prîndarha el posteu, à mhius qator mesen, à phû simcâ mesen ospréi që el gagñhéir dal eleziun vânt prîndeva.

IV. El Governadéir da Maricopa continuarha à prediçar come détxâ, és pëvarha estarë rielectat.

V. El Governadéir da Maricopa apîntarha ün Governadéir-Adlêct. Schi el Governadéir resignhadra eda mortadra în el posteu, el Adlêct zevenarha Governadéir, és tent el çoiçéu, që o zesclararha la eleziun mediat, eda continuarha la rest dal stanceâ del Governadéir

Disclaimer: The English Translation is offered here. For future reference the Talossan version is the official version of the resolution!

The Maricopan Elections Already! Act
uréu q'estrada sã: John Minot, PC-Maricopa

WHEREAS, the glorious province of Maricopa has too long been languishing under the dreaded specter of Apathy, and

WHEREAS, the voting pool being half a dozen at best, a viable, representative government of the type needed for certification is a good while away, but

WHEREAS, for a later, certifiable government to ever endure it must have forerunners to get its citizens "in the mood," and

WHEREAS, any accountability regarding its governor should be a welcome change from the current system, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the following legislation will not give the province of Maricopa official certification,

THEREFORE:


I. The Ziu provisionally relinquishes its right to appoint the Military Governor to the uncertified province of Maricopa, who will henceforth be democratically chosen. But who will, until a further change in the law, shall have the same powers as before, except he-she will be democratically elected.

II. The Military Governor is ordered to appoint a Secretary of State for Maricopa, who will facilitate elections for the Governor's post by the following criteria:

- a. The polls shall be open for exactly one month, and shall open, at most, two months after the passage of this bill.
- b. At the point that the polls open, the Secretary of State shall have collected nominations from all contenders and provided them with a list of electronic and postal addresses of Maricopa's reachable citizens.
- c. The receiver of the majority of votes cast (with later runoffs, if no candidate receives a majority), shall assume office on the final closing of the polls. Assuming no runoff, the new Governor shall take office on April 22, 2001.
- d. The post of Governor and Senator of Maricopa shall not be held simultaneously by one person.

III. In all Maricopan gubernatorial elections following this one, the same procedure shall be followed, and the winner of the next election shall assume office at least four months and at most five months after the winner of the coming election did.


IV. The Governor of Maricopa will continue to rule in the same fashion as previously, and may be reelected.

V. The Governor of Maricopa shall name a Governor-Designate. Should the Governor resign or die in office, the Designate shall become Governor, and has the choice to declare immediate elections or serve out the rest of the Governor's term.. 



THE FULL TEXT OF 97OrgLaw, ARTICLE XVI: SECTION 13 Art. XVI: Sec. 13.

No province existing at the time of the adoption of this Organic Law may avail itself of any right guaranteed in this Organic Law until such time as the province contains within it a working constitution with an elected government and a citizenry comprising at least

10% of the population of the Kingdom of Talossa or at least five persons (whichever is more). The Ziu shall have power to certify this by appropriate legislation. 



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S NOTES

We certainly hope you are enjoying this newsletter. We would love to have your comments and suggestions as to how we can do better to serve your needs as Maricopans and Talossans. Many thanks to my Assistant Editor, Albrec'ht Stolfi and our Web Dude, Chris Gruber.

As to the frequency of issues, expect a new issue every three weeks or so until further notice. This election cycle in Maricopa is so exciting and the last thing we at **muc'häps** want to do is to miss a single development!!

Thanks, everyone!

Jeffrey Ragsdale Editor-in-Chief 



MASTHEAD





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AZUL, AGAIN

Thanks to everyone for all the wonderful feedback and support to this most noble cause! In this issue, a number of new features make their debut, Raves and Rants as well as the Secretary of State's Corner: your source for all things official concerning the upcoming election for Governor and will be a regular part of the **müc'häps** scene certainly for the duration of this electoral process.

Not only that, we at **müc'häps** do freely admit to having a section devoted to typos, mistakes, etc.! Scholarly publications like to sugarcoat theirs by utilizing the pretentious title *errata*. We just call ours OOPS!! and all mistakes from the previous issue (22 February, 2001) are the sole responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief, Jeff Ragsdale. Notice our cover story and the piece on Jeff Ragsdale's upcoming trip to Germany this summer. What things have you Maricopans going? Inquiring minds at **müc'häps** want to know!;)!

Jeffrey Ragsdale, Editor-in-Chief

Albrec'ht Stolfi, Assistant Editor

Chris Gruber, Master of All Beats, Pacaria.org 



DIVINE INTERVENTION

JEFF RAGSDALE'S ROOMMATE NEARLY DIES BEFORE HIS TIME!!!

And we mean this quite seriously, folks! This stunning Wittenberg VI post about the tragedy that almost was:

What happened to my roommate on Friday

Posted by Jeffrey Ragsdale on February 26, 2001 at 12:15:11:

Friday evening, a storm hit my part of Houston hard!! I was at my Dad's house, but my roommate, Larry, was at home when lightning hit a transformer two blocks from my house. When the entire place lit up like a light bulb due to the electrical surge coursing through the innards of our wiring, Larry hit the kitchen floor and the microwave oven

was tried!!!!!!

By the grace of God, Larry was not injured in the slightest!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And only the microwave oven was damaged. Had the surge or the lightning come from the west instead of the east, my computer would have been toast instead! In any case, thank God my house did not catch on fire and burn to the ground!!! Again, only the microwave oven sustained any damage whatsoever!

Whew!!!

Jeff

And just how close did Larry come to getting hurt or even killed? According to Jeff, "Only seconds before the incident, Larry was standing next to the ill-fated microwave and walked to the other side of the kitchen a few feet away!!! God and His angels were truly watching over Larry that night!!" Jeff goes on to say "Larry fell on the kitchen floor of his own accord; he could hear the pop-pop-pop-popping of the electrical breakers!"

Unbelievable!! Thank God only the microwave got fried!! Everything else in the house seems to be working fine!!)



UPDATION: ELEZIUN SPRING 2001

On Friday, March 2, 2001, we spoke with Maricopan Secretary of State Jeff Ragsdale (jrag@swbell.net) about what is happening.

müc'häps: Well, what's going on?

JR: While I have not yet recieved nominations for the Governor's race, I am much relieved that, waaaaaay south-of-the-border, Albrec'ht Stolfi and Paola Cleri have gotten their election nomination materials. I do not know about Martin Bertagnon yet. As of the date of this interview, John Minot and Gary Schwichtenberg as well as the above-mentioned have gotten back to me about having gotten their stuff.

müc'häps: But no one has sent a nomination form to you?

JR: Not yet. I need those forms in by March 15 or your name will not appear on the ballot and you will have to do a write-in campaign!

müc'häps: What if no one votes in the election?

JR: You need to quit eating that McDonald's "Special Sauce". I think voter turnout will be quite good! Indeed, I am expecting a 100% turnout in our first Maricopan democratic election!!! :)

müc'häps: Who do you think will run? Who might win this election?


JR: Whoever wants to and whoever gets the most votes ;) You guys really spat this second issue out quick!

müc'häps: A little faster than we had expected or hoped, but I think the cover story was big enough news to stand on its own.

JR: I think my roommate would agree!


müc'häps: Until next time...

JR: Please let me know when the rest of you get those things. And if you don't, certainly let me know!! Thanks, everyone!! [end of interview]

Once again, Maricopa SoS Jeff Ragsdale may be reached at swbell.net! 



WE'RE IN THE LinkJumper


On Monday, February 26, 2001, Chris Gruber, on the suggestion of the venerable Michael Pope, added **müc'häps** to the LinkJumper which may be found at the top of the Wittenberg main board! What an accomplishment and achievement for this brand-spanking-new publication. 



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BACH

Bach? Bach who?? J. S. Bach (1685-1750), that is! And it is in his footsteps [the Bach Society](#) shall be traveling this June 5-18!! Our intinerary may be found at the homepage.

And just why is this being publicized in this publication?

Because our own Editor-in-Chief, Jeff Ragsdale is a member of the Bach Society and will be a trip participant. 



RAVES & RANTS

>From Wittenberg VI:

Bravo! Posted by Andrea on February 22, 2001 at 19:29:53:

In Reply to: ...And here's the link;))!! posted by Jeffrey Ragsdale on February 22, 2001 at 16:59:35:

Beautiful! It looks great. Nice job, guys!

Thanks for the kind words, Andrea! And much luck with your work as Deputy Minister of Defence! E-i-C

Good Work Posted by Ronált on February 22, 2001 at 19:23:17:

In Reply to: ...And here's the link;))!! posted by Jeffrey Ragsdale on February 22, 2001 at 16:59:35:

Great publication, Jeff. Ron

Thanks for the vote of confidence, Ron! And thanks for all you are doing for Talossa!!

Re: ...And here's the link;))!!

Posted by Michael Pope on February 23, 2001 at 12:14:05:

In Reply to: ...And here's the link;))!! posted by Jeffrey Ragsdale on February 22, 2001 at 16:59:35:

: : Here it is! Maricopa's first newsletter (as far as I know!)

Excellent work!! Kudos to all involved! (I'll pick up a box at Costco tonight for y'all.)
One suggestion - **müc'häps** should have a link in the Link Jumper.

: : Special thanks to Chris Gruber for the fabulous web work!!

Chris's web design skills and enthusiasm are why he makes an excellent Minister of Propaganda!

Michael

Chris' web design skills and enthusiasm are two reasons why Talossa is worth fighting for and what makes this nationette so worthwhile! Thanks for the kind words and all you do for Talossa! E-i-C

Re: Something to look at while browsing the web...?

Posted by Roðgarüt on February 27, 2001 at 16:25:34:

In Reply to: Something to look at while browsing the web...? posted by chris gruber, amateur photographer on February 27, 2001 at 14:57:48:


: Check out the link below to see some of the more interesting photos (can you call them that?) with my web cam. Thanks.

Chris, you are one talented wahooni. If I were a corporate fatcat in search of a web designer I'd have you signed up quicker than a contract on an inclined surface with a quick pen.

I hope those contracts come rolling in.

Dan

*No, this indeed does not have anything directly to do with his work with **müc'häps**, but for someone in Chris Gruber's line of work, this post is the highest compliment possible! How fortunate for **müc'häps**, Maricopa, and Talossa Chris is around. If you think we at **müc'häps** are needlessly making this newsletter the Chris Gruber show, you have not been to pacaria.org! E-i-C*

*** Email your raves and rants to jrag@swbell.net. 



Pëschat -- THE OTHER NEW MAGAZINE

Chris Gruber sits down again to tell us all about his new national magazine, *Pëschat*.

müc'häps: Tell us more about *Pëschat*.

CG: I plan to have *Pëschat* fill the rôle of "the Talossan pop culture mag" that was originally filled by my own Vénéneux. I accept contributions from any Talossan who wishes to contribute, but instead of a mere reporting rag, we plan to be a more intellectual dissection of who, what, when, where, and especially why. Why are Talossans the way they are? Why do we argue so much? Why are we different from the rest of the world?

müc'häps: What does the word mean?

CG: Heh. That's my little secret. Although, I would prefer if any Talossan out there who actually knows, would they mind keeping it a secret, at least until those who don't know acquire a copy of the dictionary? Thanks.

müc'häps: What will this new mag be all about?

CG: About five articles long. :-)

müc'häps: What are the underlying things you think about in web design, construction,

and the like?

CG: I try to stick to my personal design philosophy of consistency, simplicity, and style. Consistency is essential throughout a site, so as not to throw too many visual items at the average web surfer. Just like offline materials, you try to make the business cards match the letterhead match the brochures, and so on.

Simplicity is essential, because it requires proper use of whitespace (or blackspace, bluespace, redspace, whichever is the background colour) to separate visual elements. The human eye gets tired after a while and whitespace gives that eye a place of rest. Simplicity also helps me keep out any nonessential items, like silly JavaScripts or anything else that might get in the way of the enjoyment of the site.

Style is based on my personal tastes. Lately, I've been immersing myself in the study of what I call "retronomics": I love the style and design of the Art Deco movement, and of the 20s-40s in general. You may have noticed my use of certain retro fonts.

müc'häps: How do you come up with all those schnazzy color schemes? It seems pastels and "powder" colors are in in your boat. Are they the going thing in web circles now?

CG: My favourite colours tend to pop up quite a bit, indeed, in these sites (blue is a biggy for me), but I tend to use colour schemes that properly reflect the subject matter. For instance, with the muchaps site, I used colours from the Maricopan flag. The tan for the background comes from the image invoked in my head when I think of the southwest: desert. John Minot's Roadrunner Party page uses that same imagery.

As far as pastels being a big web thing, I'm not sure. I use them because it's much easier on the eye to read text off a pastel background than a brighter colour. Test it yourself. Create an HTML document using red as the background colour and then tell me if your eyes don't ache.

müc'häps: What software do you use exactly?

CG: I use Macromedia Dreamweaver UltraDev (like my pals Phil and Tomás ;-)) for the site design and management; Macromedia Fireworks, Microsoft Image Composer, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe ImageReady for graphic design and optimisation; the operating systems are MS Windows 2000 Professional and Windows ME; and I tend to draw the ideas out in a notebook I use.

müc'häps: What computer have you?

CG: A 550 MHz Pentium III with 128 MB RAM, a Voodoo 3 3000 video card, two 15 GB hard drives, a CD-ROM drive, a Zip drive, a Network Interface Card, a 56k dialup modem, and a Yamaha onboard soundcard. If you understand any of that, then you're a nerd. ;-)

müc'häps: Thank you again!

CG: Thank you.



SECRETARY OF STATE'S CORNER:

The Ides of March

My thanks to **müc'häps** for this little regular column! Please remember, if you want your name on the ballot, you must have it back to me **no later than March 15!** The very next day, I will mail ballots to everyone. Do note that write-in votes will be allowed in the election, but *not* in a runoff should that situation come up. To level the playing field, I am, as I said in the last issue, conducting this campaign via snail mail. Absolutely no emailed nominations or votes will be allowed in this election. In the next election, we will hopefully be able to do things a bit differently.

You will notice the full text of RZ1 and the 97OrgLaw, Article XVI, Section 13 have been replicated in this issue. muc'häps! has kindly agreed to publish these from time to time

and especially during this election cycle to keep ourselves refreshed of the legal aspect of all the wonderful things going on here in Maricopa!

If I have been to the point of overkill in regard to Pete Hottelet's contact info, I apologize. The email I have for Dale Morris, dmorris12@aol.com, is no longer valid.

I cannot tell you all how important it is to keep your contact information current. Email addresses are like Super Bowl champions and Liz Taylor's husbands: they seem to change every week. This regular column will keep everyone informed of the latest developments in the mechanics of Maricopan government and governance!! If you have any questions or comments, please let me know at my email below!

Thanks, everyone!!

Jeffrey Ragsdale Maricopa Secretary of State jrag@swbell.net 




OOPS!

A not-so-regular feature of not-so-regularities

This is the debut of another section which will hopefully not be a regular feature. Anyway, to give you an example of the fare you will find in this nook of **müc'häps**:

From Vol. I, Issue 1: 22 February, 2001 It is müc'häps!, *notmuc'häps!* ;) Also, the correct date for the Government Holiday Act is May 31, not May 30.

Not only that, but no email was given to send your raves and rants! It is jrag@swbell.net. 



RZ1: THE FULL TEXT OF The Maricopan Elections Already! ACT

*RZ1-- La Rezoluziun da Eleziuns Maricopäes Strax!
uréu q'estrada sâ: Ián Miaschür, PC-Maricopa*

TANDI QË, la provîncù gloriös da Maricopa tent lengat trô lung sub el spietoûr üpectat dal Apapéticâ, és

TANDI QË, la ciumisâ dels votéirs isch, à la pü, sex, com'acest isch ün governamáintsch operat és represantüu distanteu, és

TANDI QË, pë që ün governamáintsch pü schpéit, certifiavál remasarha txamáis, fost-ça tirë anteceisoûrs, qi zonarha à ça citaxhiëns ün "glünâ," és

TANDI QË, iñen rësponçiválità proftâ el Governadéir serà ün cînxh benvenescù del süstêm corentic, és

TANDI QË, ça remáina la intendonça, që la lexhislazium sovînd non zonarha à la provîncù da Maricopa aucün certifiaziun uficiál,

PËR ACEASTÂ RAZIUN:

I. El Ziu arelinqua propriâmînt ça drept, à apîntar el Governadéir Militár à la provîncù üncertifiat da Maricopa, és o serà çoiçat daincêts democräticmînt.

II. El Governadéir Militár isch comandat, që o apîntarha ün Secretár D'estat pë Maricopa, qi ilesnarha ünâ eleziun pë el posteu del Governadéir cün las criteriuns

sovînd:

- a. Las urnâs serent âpnescû pr'iens mes acûrat, és la eleziun començarha, pû schpéit, douâ mesen ospréi la validaziun da aceastâ rezoluziun.
- b. Quand qê las urnâs âpnent, el Secretár D'estat tîscha colectat las nominaziuns da toct els quairéirs és tîscha asigûrat á lor ün list dels adreçéux (del és telepôst és phôst) dels citaxhiêns contactaváis da Maricopa.
- c. El recepatôr del pûpârts da votâs (cün eleziuns secundárs, schi aucün candidäts non reçaífadra el pûpârts) prîndarha el posteu quand qê las urnâs ferment.
- d. Els posteux del Governadéir és Senätsesc da Maricopa non serent ocupat simultánmînt d'iensâ personâ.

III. În toct las eleziuns Maricopâes presidáis ospréi aceastâ, el mismeu procedançeü serà uveidiat, és el gagñhéir dal eleziun proxim prîndarha el posteu, à mhius qator mesen, à phû simcâ mesen ospréi qê el gagñhéir dal eleziun vânt prîndeva.

IV. El Governadéir da Maricopa continuarha à prediçar come détxâ, és pëvarha estarë rîelectat.

V. El Governadéir da Maricopa apîntarha ün Governadéir-Adlêct. Schi el Governadéir resigñhadra eda mortadra în el posteu, el Adlêct zevenarha Governadéir, és tent el çoiçéu, qê o zesclararha la eleziun mediat, eda continuarha la rest dal stanceâ del Governadéir

Disclaimer: The English Translation is offered here. For future reference the Talossan version is the official version of the resolution!

The Maricopan Elections Already! Act
uréu q'estrada sâ: John Minot, PC-Maricopa

WHEREAS, the glorious province of Maricopa has too long been languishing under the dreaded specter of Apathy, and

WHEREAS, the voting pool being half a dozen at best, a viable, representative government of the type needed for certification is a good while away, but

WHEREAS, for a later, certifiable government to ever endure it must have forerunners to get its citizens "in the mood," and

WHEREAS, any accountability regarding its governor should be a welcome change from the current system, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the following legislation will not give the province of Maricopa official certification,

THEREFORE:

I. The Ziu provisionally relinquishes its right to appoint the Military Governor to the uncertified province of Maricopa, who will henceforth be democratically chosen. But who will, until a further change in the law, shall have the same powers as before, except he-she will be democratically elected.


II. The Military Governor is ordered to appoint a Secretary of State for Maricopa, who will facilitate elections for the Governor's post by the following criteria:

- a. The polls shall be open for exactly one month, and shall open, at most, two months after the passage of this bill.
- b. At the point that the polls open, the Secretary of State shall have collected nominations from all contenders and provided them with a list of electronic and postal addresses of Maricopa's reachable citizens.
- c. The receiver of the majority of votes cast (with later runoffs, if no candidate receives a majority), shall assume office on the final closing of the polls. Assuming no runoff, the new Govenor shall take office on April 22, 2001.

d. The post of Governor and Senator of Maricopa shall not be held simultaneously by one person.


III. In all Maricopan gubernatorial elections following this one, the same procedure shall be followed, and the winner of the next election shall assume office at least four months and at most five months after the winner of the coming election did.

IV. The Governor of Maricopa will continue to rule in the same fashion as previously, and may be reelected.

V. The Governor of Maricopa shall name a Governor-Designate. Should the Governor resign or die in office, the Designate shall become Governor, and has the choice to declare immediate elections or serve out the rest of the Governor's term.. 



THE FULL TEXT OF 97OrgLaw, ARTICLE XVI: SECTION 13 Art. XVI: Sec. 13.

No province existing at the time of the adoption of this Organic Law may avail itself of any right guaranteed in this Organic Law until such time as the province contains within it a working constitution with an elected government and a citizenry comprising at least 10% of the population of the Kingdom of Talossa or at least five persons (whichever is more). The Ziu shall have power to certify this by appropriate legislation. 



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S NOTES

We certainly hope you are enjoying this newsletter. We would love to have your comments and suggestions as to how we can do better to serve your needs as Maricopans and Talossans. Many thanks to my Assistant Editor, Albrec'ht Stolfi and our Web Dude, Chris Gruber.

As to the frequency of issues, expect a new issue every three weeks or so until further notice. This election cycle in Maricopa is so exciting and the last thing we at **müc'häps** want to do is to miss a single development!!

Thanks, everyone!

Jeffrey Ragsdale Editor-in-Chief 



MASTHEAD







Volume 1, Issue 3 - 12 June 2001

I bet you're all wondering "gee, why does Müc'häps look so ugly and bland? What happened?". You see, our first two issues were designed by html-guru Chris Gruber. Unfortunately he was too busy to do ish# 3, and I had to htmlize (does that word even exist?) everything. As you can see, my html only goes to up to 1997 or so... Anyway, we here at Müc'häps apologize for the delay in releasing issue 3, nearly two months after the last one. Still, it does not contain the post-elections articles you've all been waiting for... You'll just have to wait a little more, and as soon as we get them ready, we'll let you know via Wittenberg. All I can say is, John Minot was elected (what a surprise...) :-)

Albrec'ht Stolfi, Assistant to the Editor

ELEZIUN Spring, 2001 update: an in-depth interview with Maricopan Secretary of State Jeff Ragsdale

müc'häps!: Mr. Secretary, what is going on with the election?

JR: Not including Pete Hottelet, for whom we still have no contact info, we have in Maricopa nine active citizens. To this point, John Minot has received four votes (from Jeff Ragsdale, John Minot himself, Ken Oplinger, and Gary Schwichtenberg). While the opportunity for write-in votes has been extended, no one has cast any write-in votes. Because of my delay in getting ballots out in time for the voters to meet the deadline of April 21, 2001, the election deadline by which date all votes need to be in my hands has been extended by a decree of Military Governor John Minot to May 15, 2001.

Additionally, I am allowing votes by email. To Dale Morris and Mark Pendl, for whom we have no valid email addresses, I have sent to each a paper copy of the "Official Ballot" email dated April 15, 2001 as well as a self-addressed stamped envelope for their convenience. In that email, I said I would have these posted by April 17. I was unable to get them into the mail until April 19. :(

müc'häps!: This is a little worrisome, Jeff. Will your mundane life affect your ability to carry out the duties of this office?

JR: This is something I have thought of. I am, though, not willing to admit defeat. My life is undergoing a major reorganization at the moment. Once that is all done with, I think my Talossan life will be in better order. I have all confidence I will be able to continue my duties as your provincial Secretary of State.

müc'häps!: Jeff Ragsdale made a little history. Did he not?

JR: Indeed! By casting the first vote ever in a Maricopan democratic election!

müc'häps!: You are now back in the Cosá.

JR: Indeed I am, and it's good to be back! I just hope I got my April, 2001 Clark vote in on time. Kudos to Martin-Pierre Frenette! What he has already done for Talossa is immesurable!

müc'häps!: We agree!! Thanks for sitting down with us!

JR: It was my pleasure! I'm glad all I need to do now is watch the last votes come in! May 15 is the deadline! Thanks, everyone!

[end of interview]

RAVES AND RANTS!!!

Via email:

Subject: Re: müc'häps! Vol. I, Issue 2: March 4, 2001

Date: Sun, 04 Mar 2001 08:28:21 -0600

From: John Minot

To: Jeffrey Ragsdale

References: 1

A marvelous concoction once again! We are all hoping for many more.

By the way, concerning the Divine Intervention article: Strings of exclamation points often come off as painful to the eye. I think just one suffices for all occasions, except when you need a '?!'.

Otherwise, kudos.

John Minot

*Many thanks, John for those kind words! Your cogent take on the, I mean *my*, punctuation binge makes me realize I am...I am...I am a...a...a...a punctuationaholic. E-i-C*

As always, email your raves and rants to jrag@swbell.net

RON, the Legend: The Premier of Vuode Province talks about Talossa!

We sat down and spoke at length with him. This interview was conducted in a series of emails from 27 February, 2001 to 4 March, 2001.

> Can you elaborate more on what Bill Cooper is doing for Voude?

RR- Bill is working on VPR-SOG issues and providing me with a grounded, common-sense sounding board. His addy is: bcooper@ccrtc.com

> What is your take on provincial politics in general and in Voude in particular?

RR- Excellent question, Jeff!

Many Talossans welcome the awakening Provincial scene because it encourages involvement in Talossan politics for those who don't want to play on the national scene, yet still have a voice in most matters.

>The 97OrgLaw takes in most of the obvious powers, i. e., things government controls such as weights, measures, etc. What not-so-obvious things could our provinces do for our citizenry?

RR- It would allow a unique cultural flavor to form in each Province. The Vuode Province citizenry would be known for one thing and Aquamarine citizens, for another.

> What plans have you for Vuode?

RR- Aside from our bringing our platform and mission statement to fruition, we intend to make Vuode the epitome of function and stability in government. Vuode Province will set an example for all to follow.

> And what are your platform and mission statement??

RR- 1) To examine, dissolve and rewrite the Vuode Province constitution.

2) To examine and propose changes the current Vuode Province political system.

3) To prepare Vuode Province for a functional future.

4) To investigate the ramifications of provincial certification and its effect on Vuode's inter-provincial relations.

5) To examine, create and implement a Vuode Province Lower Cort.

> Why do we need inter-provincial relations? Are we all one country, united, and indivisible?

RR- I wouldn't think of this in the same light as a "UN-type" alliance, Jeff. Many great minds are better than one and with the creation of the VPR-SOG, Provincial SoS's, Premiers or their equivalents and citizens can find common issues to study, discuss and possibly implement locally.

> What constitutional ideas are floating about your mind?

RR- Until I get a copy of the Vuode Constitution, I can't go into great detail, but establishing a Provincial Judiciary, a Parliamentary government and Having our SoS taking an active role in inter-provincial relations are my top three goals right now.

> Why should the SoS also be a diplomat? In Talossan tradition, the Secretary of State has been a legislative clerk and an election supervisor, nothing more. It's worked fine so far!

RR- Tradition needs to be questioned if we are to be considered an innovative nation. If it's working for you and your Province, however, then more power to ya'!

Vuode province is home to the Monarchy and the VPUP. It needs a structured Provincial government.

Besides, Vuode's SoS (Coop) has my trust, confidence and blessing to deal with the other Provinces on all VPR-SOG issues. I will be dealing with the other Provincial issues. This allows many important undertakings to occur simultaneously. Remember, the VPUP's role is to bring function back to Vuode Province. "A Strong Province For A Strong Nation - VPUP!" ;-}

> Where do you see Talossa in ten years?

RR- In ten years, our language will be spoken by many, our population will be over one-thousand, and the Provinces will be much more influential....

> How on earth is this massive going to be achieved? With the Netscape and Wired magazine publicity, not to mention our stature in the micronational world up until three years ago, why haven't we had this influx of people already?

RR- We haven't brought Talossa out to the public and sold it in a way that makes people want to become a part of something special.

> How would you go about this, then??

RR- I would get moving on an RT publicity campaign that emphasizes our language, sense of community, pride and individual political empowerment ASAP! Talossa must grow with prudence and and enthusiasm!

> Would that include search engine submissions, etc.?

RR- Yes.

Many new citizens will be litigious and bring chaos to the RT....

> If they are micronationalists in the worst sense, we will hopefully ferret them out before naturalization! ;)

RR- That's the problem with the tight immigration controls we have in place. We scare off the good and the bad.

> Better too tight than too loose. What do you see as the middle ground here?

RR- Jeff, I didn't want to give you the impression that we should "open the flood gates," and let anything into the RT. Yet, we should reduce the costs and political party brow-beating during one's naturalization. Wouldn't you agree?

[Ron did not give us such an impression. :) E-i-C]

> While müc'häps! endeavors to be as politically neutral as possible, even to the point of being absurd, I personally agree with you 100%!

RR- ...It is important to have a legal apparatus in place before this influx occurs. We will have a first electronic virus attack.

> It is surprising we have not had one already! What has kept the hackers in check?

RR- I'm sure our MoD and the Wittmeisters have made it known that "bugging" us will result in certain death! ;}

> The Australian email-flame monsters from last year got a taste of the Ministry of Defense!! ;)

RR- Phil, our MoD, is capable and although he and I got off on the wrong foot, I now find him to be a Talossan that all should admire and respect. His patriotic loyalty is unquestionable.

> What are your views on the 1997 Organic Law?

RR- I respect the authors of the OrgLaw, but I find many contradictory areas that have to be addressed in short order.

> Such as...

RR- The Cort system.

> What is your master plan for Talossa?

RR- My master plan is to make Talossa a community in which many will want to take part. I also see the day when a Liberal can be as proud of Talossa as a PC member....

> Are they not already?

RR- If I were continually bashed and referred to as treasonous (24/7), I'd be pretty disgusted, not proud of my Talossan citizenship.

RR-...Ideally, I want to bring good law, symbolic law, humor and fun back into the RT....

> When the *Wired* kids joined Talossa not even a year ago, it seemed the RT was all those things already.

RR- We should have fun while running the greatest nation on Earth!

> Indeed we should!!

> Whatever else is on your mind!!:)

RR- Talossa is a great experiment. It brings people together from all over the world. We play hard politics and unless you have the stomach for it, you shouldn't apply.

Our main focuses should be to clarify provincial roles, explore a Talossan economy (at a later date), end the in-fighting and set an example for other wannabee's to follow.

Thank you for this opportunity, Jeff.

[end of interview]

Stolfi Founds Institute of Technology

Albrec'ht Stolfi announced on Wittenberg, April 10, the creation of the Royal Maricopan Institute of Technology, or Institueu Maricopán Rexhitál da Tec'hnohxhà. Stolfi claimed the RMIT will function as "a Talossan equivalent of MIT", where Talossans and Cestoûrs alike may pursue undergraduate and graduate studies in several fields of engineering and science. "Not that there's anybody actually studying at RMIT" says a completely realistic Stolfi, who admits his Institute should not be taken seriously. "Like most Talossan institutions, the RMIT is sort of tongue-in-cheek." he tells us.

Stolfi had been carefully idealizing the RMIT for several months, but never had the chance to officially announce its creation until now. "I started working on the website in December, but never got the chance to finish it", he says. "I was going to publicly announce the RMIT when I completed the website, but Gruber's Pórt Maxhéstic College made me announce it before." Despite lack of content, the RMIT website design was met with positive reviews from all over the nation. Gruber later announced he too was working on a PMC website, although whether or not it will be as good as the RMIT website is yet to be seen.

With the creation of Pórt Maxhéstic College and RMIT, MMers and Maricopans will have more fuel for the growing rivalry between them. "Yeah, well the PMC Sharks still beat the RMIT Scorpions every year at baseball, basketball, and draughts!", warned an obviously jealous Chris Gruber. Stolfi replied to Gruber informing that the RMIT mascot is actually a Hokan indian. Stolfi goes on to say: "We're the RMIT Hokans, of just Tec'h for short. Copa Tec'h is also nice. The school colours are orange and white, and we play in the Big MAC (Maricopan Athletic Conference)."

Stolfi still has more plans regarding higher education in Maricopa. "I've got plans for a big provincial school, sort of like Wisconsin-Madison or Michigan State", he says. "And a smaller private school, like Dartmouth or Brown, would also be a good addition".

You can see the RMIT website at: <http://www.geocities.com/imrtech>

Major League Baseball in Maricopa

All you Maricopan baseball fans are going to love this... Albrec'ht Stolfi, who is back in the Ziu after a two-month absence, submitted a bill for the May Clark entitled "The Maricopa Brewers Act". Guess what, it passed! The act encourages Talossans to refer to the Milwaukee ballclub as the Maricopa Brewers. "This will be great for Maricopa. I know the Packers thing did wonders for Florencia, I hoping it'll do the same for us." remarked an excited Stolfi. "Even the M on the Brewers' caps fits in with our plans."

Stolfi reckons Maricopa's claim over the Brewers is totally fair. "There is no reason why the Brewers' can't be called the Maricopa Brewers. I mean, Florencia has got the Packers, and Miller Park is much closer to Maricopa

than Lambeau Field is to the Vaguely Nacho-Shaped Province." he tells us. "In fact, Maricopa is the closest out of all the Talossan provinces to Miller Park and surroundings". Stolfi warns us, however: "My only concern is that MC's from other provinces, out of jealousy and envy, might want to deprive the Maricopan people of having their own pro sports team."

It turns out he had no reason to fear. The bill passed by a mile, and there was no sign of an anti-Maricopan initiative to shoot down the bill. "I guess their admiration overwhelms their envy. We're just too damn great to be hated.", declared an unidentified Maricopan while celebrating the Ziu's decision.

Well, for all you MMers and Vuodeans lurking out there, the Bucks are still up for grabs!

THE MARICOPA BREWERS ACT:

WHEREAS, Talossa is surrounded by the US city of Milwaukee, and
WHEREAS, Milwaukee is home to various professional sports teams, and
WHEREAS, one such professional sports team is the Milwaukee Brewers, a MLB ballclub, and
WHEREAS, the Brewers' new stadium, Miller Park, is situated not too far from the RT-US border, and
WHEREAS, the closest Talossan province to Miller Park is the Sovereign Province of Maricopa, and
WHEREAS, the Ziu in the past has approved legislation allowing for the Green Bay Packers to be alternatively known as the Florencia Packers, and
WHEREAS, the "M" on the Brewer's cap could just as well stand for "Maricopa",
THEREFORE, the Ziu states it is acceptable for Talossans and Cestoûrs to refer to the Milwaukee Brewers as the "Maricopa Brewers"; the latter name shall be given preference over the former in the Talossan press and other RT publications and broadcast. The Ziu also encourages all Talossans to patriotically cheer for the "Maricopa Brewers", whether at the ballpark or on television.

Sitegadgets Upgrades Systems

During the evening of Sunday, March 4, 2001, Wittenberg VI (and the whole of Sitegadgets) was down due to Sitegadgets upgrading its systems and the involved date conversion. So far, it seems Witt has not been affected adversely.

More recently, Wittenberg VI has suffered numerous problems and difficulties.

In a soon-coming issue, we sit down with Wittmeisters Chris Gruber and Jules Beulen and talk about Talossa, Witt, and other things!

Of The Subjunctive

That strange part of language as a whole that seems to be as understandable as the Infield Fly Rule. Our own John Minot was gracious enough to talk to us:

This short talk was given via email on March 5, 2001.

> mûc'häps would love your take on this subject! That would include an
> explanation of the subjunctive for grammarophytes like I :). It's a case
> like genetive and dative, right?
>
> Pretty please:~)! Thanks!

John Minot: Glad to, speaking as a non-expert. To be specific, it's not a 'case' like genetive and dative, as cases go on nouns. English uses possessives and prepositions rather than cases, such as "to" or "-s". Rather, the subjunctive goes on verbs. I have a little bit of recent experience with it. English technically has one, but it has

died out except among pompous writers, such as occasionally myself:

If there _be_ any bodies buried, nobody's dug them up. _Had_ I an idea, I'd tell you.

Thanks again, John, for your insights!

This has been the subject of a fascinating Witt VI thread as of late.

<http://www.engl.virginia.edu/OE/courses/handouts/Subjunctive.html> = "Here" Here, you may find a most excellent article dealing with the subjunctive "mood" in the English language.

From Wittenberg VI:

Re: Death to the Subjunctive!

Posted by R. Ben Madison on March 04, 2001 at 17:47:39:

In Reply to: Re: Death to the Subjunctive! posted by Tomás on March 04, 2001 at 09:37:43:

: : I would say:

: : "Non txamáis votadréu [conditional] pëR qualseviens që non respectéu [present]."

: This is exactly what I would say. (Well, almost; the Scúrzniâ says that the relative pronoun for people is always qi, for both subject and object, so I would have said "Non votadréu txamáis pëR qualseviens qi non respectéu."

Grrr... you are definitely right about the qi/që difference. Qi is correct!

: : BTW I never did figure out when and when not to use the subjunctive in French, which is probably why there isn't one in Talossan!

: I had one French teacher once who gave the most sensible advice I've ever heard on the subjunctive. He said to just ignore all that vague wishy-washy crap you get in textbooks ("cases in which there is some element of doubt, uncertainly, blahblahblah") and simply accept the fact that the subjunctive is a set of verb forms used after certain grammatical triggers, i.e. there are certain words & phrases which simply require a subjunctive form to follow, and all we had to do was memorise those "triggers". Not that I remember them any more, but I liked the man's no-nonsense approach.

That's more or less what I learned as well, but like you I've forgotten the "triggers." I just remember coming away from the whole experience thinking that the subjunctive was a stupid thing. ;-)

Ben

RZ1: THE FULL TEXT OF The Maricopan Elections Already! Act

RZ1-- La Resoluziun da Eleziuns Maricopáes Strax!
uréu q'estrada sâ: lán Miaschür, PC-Maricopa

TANDI QË, la provîncù gloriös da Maricopa tent lengat trô lung sub el spietoûr üpectat dal Apapéticâ, és
TANDI QË, la ciumisâ dels votéirs isch, à la pü, sex, com'acest isch ün governamáintsch operat és represantïu
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TANDI QË, pëR që ün governamáintsch pü schpéit, certifiavál remasarha txamáis, fost-ça tirë anteceisoûrs, qi
zonarha à ça citaxhiêns ün "glünâ," és

TANDI QË, iñen rësponçiválità proftâ el Governadéir serà ün cînxi benvenescù del sùstêm corentic, és TANDI QË, ça remáina la intendonça, qè la lexhislaziun sovînd non zonarha à la provîncù da Maricopa aucün certifiaziun uficiál,

PËR ACEASTÂ RAZIUN:

I. El Ziu arelinqua propriâmînt ça drept, à apîntar el Governadéir Militar à la provîncù ûncertifiat da Maricopa, és o serà çoiçat daincêts democrâticmînt.

II. El Governadéir Militar isch comandat, qè o apîntarha ün Secretár D'estat pèr Maricopa, qi ilesnarha ünâ eleziun pèr el posteu del Governadéir cùn las criteriuns sovînd:

a. Las urnâs serent âpnescù pr'iens mes acûrat, és la eleziun començarha, pû schpéit, douâ mesen ospréi la validaziun da aceastâ resoluziun.

b. Quand qè las urnâs âpnent, el Secretár D'estat tisha colectat las nominaziuns da toct els quairéirs és tisha asigûrat á lor ün list dels adreçéux (del és telepôst és phôst) dels citaxhiêns contactaváis da Maricopa.

c. El receptât del pûpârts da votâs (cün eleziuns secundárs, schi aucün candidâts non reçaífadra el pûpârts) prîndarha el posteu quand qè las urnâs ferment.

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Disclaimer: The English Translation is offered here. For future reference the Talossan version is the official version of the resolution!

The Maricopan Elections Already! Act
uréu q'estrada sâ: John Minot, PC-Maricopa

WHEREAS, the glorious province of Maricopa has too long been languishing under the dreaded specter of Apathy, and

WHEREAS, the voting pool being half a dozen at best, a viable, representative government of the type needed for certification is a good while away, but

WHEREAS, for a later, certifiable government to ever endure it must have forerunners to get its citizens "in the mood," and

WHEREAS, any accountability regarding its governor should be a welcome change from the current system, and

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THEREFORE:

I. The Ziu provisionally relinquishes its right to appoint the Military Governor to the uncertified province of Maricopa, who will henceforth be democratically chosen. But who will, until a further change in the law, shall have the same powers as before, except he-she will be democratically elected.

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- c. The receiver of the majority of votes cast (with later runoffs, if no candidate receives a majority), shall assume office on the final closing of the polls. Assuming no runoff, the new Governor shall take office on April 22, 2001.
- d. The post of Governor and Senator of Maricopa shall not be held simultaneously by one person.

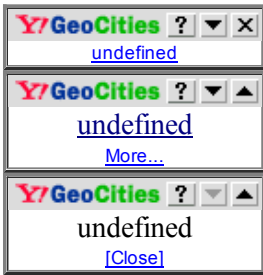
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Volume 1, Issue 4 - July 2001

Minot elected, assigns Stolfi as Governor Designate

In an important moment of Talossan history, John Minot was chosen as Maricopa's first democratically elected Governor. Of course this came in as no surprise, since he was the only candidate. The massive support for him displayed by the Maricopan people reflects his extreme dedication to our wonderful province. Ever since joining the RT, Minot has been one of Maricopa's most active citizens, always contributing with something important to our provincial scene, culminating in the first Maricopan democratic election.

However, John Minot will unfortunately be absent from Talossan affairs this summer, due to a long period in Japan! He thus immediately named Albrec'ht Stolfi as Governor-Designate, his successor in case anything happens to him. John Minot made an official announcement on Wittenberg, which was received with some suspicion due to the recent incidents involving people posting messages under false identities. A few Talossans even expressed some concern, while still joking, that perhaps Albrec'ht Stolfi was actually staging a coup, by posting under John Minot's name.

Albrec'ht Stolfi accepted the nomination, and wished John Minot good luck in Japan. When reached for comment, Stolfi remarked "I hope nothing happens to lán while he is away. If I had wanted to be Governor of Maricopa, I never would have resigned back when I was still Military Governor."

Busy Maricopans

As of late, the Maricopan provincial scene has been a bit slow and unexciting. Just take a look at *Müc'häps*, once a weekly vibrant newspaper full of interviews and information, now a small monthly publication. This sudden drop in activity is actually due to the fact that many Maricopans have been extremely busy with their lives outside Maricopa and Talossa in general.

Governor John Minot is spending the summer in Japan, and we all know how fast life can be over there. Jeff Ragsdale, Editor-in-Chief of *Müc'häps* has been kept busy with cleaning up and selling the house he grew up in, and was recently in Europe (*more on that in the next issue*). Albrec'ht Stolfi has been occupied with his transfer to Cornell University, a long, complex process that started in January and is still not over as you read this.

Add to that list the mysterious disappearance of Ken Oplinger, whose ZPT hasn't even been registered in the Talossan General Elections, the renunciation of Jay Shorten's Talossan citizenship, and of course the other "missing" Maricopans, namely Dale Morris, Paola Cleri, Pete Hottel and others.

However, once everything has settled down, Maricopa will certainly spring back to life, ready to take the next step towards complete provincial certification.

Tha-tha-that's All Folks!

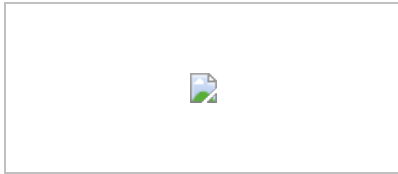
Yes, this issue of *Müc'häps* has been especially brief and lacking in content. Please understand that not only has

Maricopa been quiet lately (as has most other Talossan provinces), but our great Editor-In-Chief, Jeff Ragsdale, has been too busy to come in and write something for our newsletter.

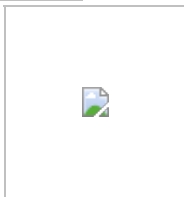
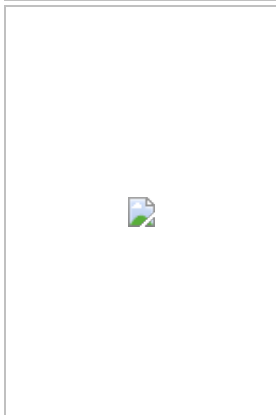
This goes to show that Jeff has always been and will always be the mind behind *Müc'häps*. I have realized that I could never put together an issue like our first two, which were entirely written by Jeff himself with a few, tiny articles of my own. He is an extremely dedicated Editor, and has a whole lot more talent for writing than I do.

In other words, we miss you Jeff. We hope that, for the sake of *Müc'häps* readers, you will soon be able to rejoin us and command this publication as you were doing back in the the "good old days". Only with your prolonged absence have we come to fully appreciate your work and talents. Way to go, Jeff!

Albrec'ht Stolfi, Assistant-to-the-Editor



*A New Dawn,
A New Era,
A New Maricopa*



müc'häps!

Issue 5: October 16, 2001

Jeffrey Ragsdale

Editor-in-Chief

Albrec'ht Stolfi

*who was the Acting Editor-in-Chief
Associate Editor-in-Chief*

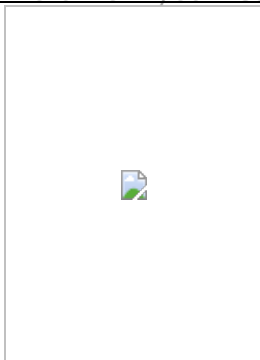
Chris Gruber

All-around Web Dude-though not for this issue...

[I wanted to see just what I could do with my new computer in getting this thing put together.]

We are back! Woohoo!!

A word from your returning Editor-in-Chief



Mega kudos and *oodles* of gratitude and thanks to our newly-minted Senator, **Albrec'ht Stolfi** (pictured at left) who won the election for that coveted spot unopposed. A hearty congratulations to Alby whose experience, loyalty, and patriotism are unquestioned and will serve us well in the Senäts in Abbavilla. It was Albrec'ht who, during my long spate of dealing with "real life" this spring and summer who, as Acting Editor-in-Chief, kept this noble publication alive and going. I do now take back the reins and give to you, Albrec'ht, a leave of absence for as long as you need. Alby is now going to Cornell University and is most busy.

Since the early part of March, I have been in the throes of getting sold the house in which I had grown up. It was not until late in July that whole process was finally completed. I am now at the house of my Dad who is letting me stay there with a very nice rent arrangement. It has taken me a great while to get settled and situated, but I am now at the point where I take over once more the reins of müc'häps! in the hopes that it can be a truly great Talossan publication.

Before little more than a month ago, this had already been a year to remember in Talossa. The renunciations of Johan Anglemark, Jamila Cruciani, Eddie Abel, Jay Shorten, T. Carter Ross, and Dan Rogerson were painful and caused what was for me the most stressful time I have had in Talossa. The General Election in July and August delayed things a bit more.

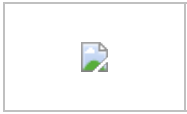
And then there was September 11. The day the world changed... The day our lives became less innocent... The day in which terror and evil raised their ugly heads in a visual fashion never before imagined by any Hollywood writer...

That day has galvanized Talossa, America, and all those who love freedom and democracy. It has galvanized all those who hate murder and barbarism to fight back. The nation of Talossa has already thrown its full support to the United States and the rest of her allies, and müc'häps! does the same!

This is a war we can, will, and *must* win. Osama Bin Laden and his cohorts are playing for keeps.

And so should we.

Jeff Ragsdale
Editor-in-Chief



In-depth with citizen Jeff Ragsdale on Talossan politics and other things

m: Jeff, it is so good having you back in the Editor-in-Chief saddle again!

JR: It is very good to be back. I have been looking forward to this for many months.

m: September 11—What goes through your mind at something like this?

JR: Well, I awoke on the morning of Sept. 11 at about 8:30 and did what I usually do when I do not have to be somewhere early: turn on the computer and check my email and Wittenberg. I fired the thing up (this was my old computer, by the way) and fired up Netscape Mail and could not believe the image which popped up in front of me in the little window devoted to Netscape News: the Towers on fire!

m: I imagine you were a bit skeptical at first?

JR: I figured it was some sick joke, but decided "Let's turn on CBS on the television. If I see Dan Rather onscreen, I'll know this is real." I spent the rest of the day watching television and forced myself to rip myself apart from the TV at about 10:30 Central and went to bed. The next day, I spent watching TV again.

m: And you actually had family living in New York.

JR: For a couple of hours, I did not know whether my Stepmom, little half-brother (Ian Ragsdale from Witt), and little half-sister were alive or dead. They live near Times Square, but they like to trapse out and about the town. I would not have been surprised if they had decided to go to the WTC early to see the sunrise or something like that.

m: Ouch! You were on pins and needles for a bit, then.

JR: No, not really. Actually, I was very, very calm throughout my unsuccessful hunting for their phone number and address in New York. I did a *lot* of MapQuest, I can tell you!! I was greatly relieved to see Times Square (I did know they lived near there) not being too near Lower Manhattan, but I still wanted to phone in, and I got through *on the first attempt*. A phone call to New York getting through *only three hours after the attacks*! A miracle!

m: Or the 1-800 number you used?

JR: Go to www.sageonstage.com and see what they are up to. I did indeed use that number. I couldn't find it in my things, but I did remember the web address and found it that way. They and all their friends in New York are fine, by the way.

m: Did you have or know anyone who died or was wounded?

JR: No, but I do know a lady whose husband works for a company whose parent company is Cantor Fitzgerald! I will never, *ever* forget the Cantor Fitzgerald CEO in that interview with Connie Chung...

m: Yup. And all this going on during a Talossan regency!!

JR: John Jahn is worth his weight in gold and then some! No one in Talossa could have done a better job in Regency than he. Ben chose well. Though, I was thinking he would choose John Eiffler.

m: Why Eif?

JR: I don't know, really. It was just the first name to pop in my head.

m: After your own, of course...

JR: hehe... I don't know what possessed me to put my name in the ring for that job. But, hey! Ben *did* ask for a volunteer, and I raised my hand!

m: I imagine you doing that engendered a few chuckles.

JR: The one person in Talossa with whom I have spoken about this was simply caught off guard and surprised that someone would actually come out and say "Hey, I'll do it!" To tell you the truth, I am *glad* the King was wise enough to *not* choose me. Again, John Jahn was the best regent we could have had.

m: You have removed your name from consideration as the next Minister of Immigration. Why?

JR: real life.

m: Understandable. What has the year 2001 meant for you as a Talossan?

JR: Ask me on Jan. 1, 2002 when 2001 is safely past us. What I can say at this point is Talossa had her finest hour in the days and weeks following the Sept. 11 mayhem. This has been a turning point for America, Talossa, and the world.

m: Other than what happened in New York, what has this year meant to you personally?

JR: A great deal. I sold and moved away from the home in which I grew up, and I am making what is amounting to a fresh and new start. This is a very exciting time for me.

m: And what of your musical endeavours?

JR: They are going as well as they ever have. Believe it or not, I am making at least half my living *singing in* choirs! I never thought I would be able to say that. The Houston Chamber Choir is in its best shape ever musically, financially, and organizationally. The Bach Society is coming off a fabulous tour of Germany, the Chancel Choir at Central Presbyterian Church is great, and my new staff singing job at Congregation Emanu El has just begun. I am also in the process of getting my jeffrags.com off the ground.

m: You are busy as a bee! Tell us about jeffrags.com

JR: I do not have a hosting service, but someone who shall remain nameless at this point and I are discussing his designing the website, and I may have found a decent hoster.

m: jeffrags.com is registered with directnic.com, right?

JR: Yes, but I see their services as being geared more for computer geeks at home. When people go to my site, I want them to be able to easily click on links to all my choirs and get my latest doings, comings, and goings at a glance. I will probably be updating the site at least once a week. jeffrags.com will be strictly a business site, but with a very informal flavor.

m: Do you plan to participate in any affiliate programs or anything like that?

JR: I doubt it. But an idea has just popped into my head, anyway.

m: Perhaps in our next issue, you can tell us more about each of these groups you are singing with?

JR: I'd love it! Thanks for having me!

m: Thanks for talking with us!

[This interview was conducted on Oct. 10-11, 2001.]

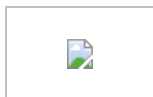
Watch for more from Jeff Ragsdale in Issue 6!



Rants and Raves

None, actually.

Whatever feedback, good or ill, you would like to send our way, email us at jeffrags@ev1.net



Our Maricopa Brewers in 2001

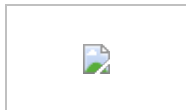
They did not do so well. Even with the invincible moral support of Talossan fans the world over, and especially those from our fair province, our Brewers were only able to garner a 68-94 record. The good vibes from the new Miller Park were not much help, either. Click [here](#) to get the whole sad story of our poor Maricopa Brewers. :-)

Better luck next year, guys! :-)



Oops!

Not surprisingly given Albrec'ht's competence, there are no errors or typos to report.



Citizen Jeff Ragsdale gets a big appointment

From Wittenberg VIII:

Internal Information Security Sub-Section Appointment

Posted By: RonáIt Rosáis on: 10/12/2001 13:57:23 EDT

Azul,

I have appointed Jeff Ragsdale to Deputy Director of Internal Information Security Sub-Section (I2/S3). He has accepted and has my full support. Thank you.

Ronált Rosáis

When asked about this milestone in his Talossan career, Deputy Director Ragsdale had this to say: "I wish such an office was not needed. I am, though, honored to be appointed, and I look forward to serving."



Microsoft Word XP

This is the first issue I have actually done the web work for myself. Chris Gruber did issues 1 and 2 while 3 and 4 were put together by Albrec'ht. On September 13, I got my new Dell 8100 with a P4 1.5Ghz processor, 512MB RAM, a 60-gig hard drive, and a host of other expensive parts. Since that time, I have had a ball seeing just what my new machine and new version of Office can do.

When I saw I could put together a website with Word XP, I decided to see what I could do with müc'häps! I hope it is to your liking!



Secretary of State's Corner

Azul, fellow Maricopans! While all of you should have gotten this either by post or email, or have seen it on Wittenberg, I have decided to post this information yet again. As of this writing, only John Minot has voted (for himself, I might add). I originally posted this to Wittenberg VIII on September 12, 2001 and reposted it on September 13, 2001.

My fellow Maricopans and all Talossans,

Previous to yesterday, "real life" had put the upcoming election for a Governor of Maricopa on the back burner. I have found myself most able, even previous to yesterday, to once more do my duties as your provincial Secretary of State.

I think now would also be a most appropriate moment to, in my own small way, show the world and all the #@\$#&\$*s who live in it, that civilization and all that is good and right still reigns! This is still God's world.

I do now declare open the election for Governor of the Province of Maricopa with voting beginning at the moment of this posting and continuing until 12:01am Central time on the 7th of November, 2001, the day after Election Day in the United States at which point the new Governor shall assume office (or assume another term as the case may be) with said term ending at the close of the next election on 12:01am Central, 7 March, 2002. Certainly this is not in the letter of 31stZiu, RZ1, the Maricopan Elections, Already! Act but is most definitely in the spirit of that law.

There will be no time for "collecting nominations". You may vote for yourselves or for another Maricopan if you so desire.

My contact information has changed. Given Grubi's confidence in the security of the new Wittenberg VIII, I, too, do now post my address in this forum:

2919 Rockyridge

Houston, TX 77063
713-783-5292
jeff@jeffrags.com

By way of any of the above methods, you may get your vote to me. If the above phone number does not work (I do not have voice mail on that one), you may call 713-780-4393 (this number does have voice mail).

Governor Minot and my fellow Maricopans, previous to yesterday, this was an already a busy year for me. The whole process of selling the house in which I have grown up as well as getting settled in my new digs at my father's house has taken all my time and energy. Hence, all these election delays. I do pledge to all of you that the next election will indeed be held on time!

Thinking the election had already started (my mistake), Governor John Minot has voted for himself.

The thoughts and prayers of all Maricopans, and, indeed, all Talossans are with the families of the victims, the President and Government of the United States, the citizens and governments of both the City and State of New York, the emergency personnel, and the law enforcement agencies and armed forces of the United States of America and all peace-loving and civilized nations.

God save the King and Regent and bring our King and Princess :) back home safely!

God save and bless the United States of America!

Jeffrey Ragsdale
Secretary of State
Maricopa Province, RT

Once again, I have decided to include the foundation documents for our provincial Organic certification:

31st Ziu: RZ1: THE FULL TEXT OF The Maricopan Elections Already! Act

RZ1-- La Rezoluziun da Eleziuns Maricopâes Strax!
urêu q'estrada sâ: Ián Miaschür, PC-Maricopa

TANDI QË, la provîngù gloriös da Maricopa tent lengat trô lung sub el spietoûr ûpectat dal Apapéticâ, és

TANDI QË, la ciumisâ dels votéirs isch, à la pû, sex, com'acest isch ün governamáintsch operat és represantïu distanteu, és

TANDI QË, përqë ün governamáintsch pû schpéit, certifiavál remasarha txamáis, fost-ça tirë anteceisoûrs, qì zonarha à ça citaxhiëns ün "glünâ," és

TANDI QË, iñen rëspunçiválità proftâ el Governadéir serà ün cînxh benvenescù del süstêm corentic, és

TANDI QË, ça remáina la intendonça, që la lexhislaziun sovînd non zonarha à la provîngù da Maricopa aucün certifiaziun oficiál,

PËR ACEASTÂ RAZIUN:

I. El Ziu arelinqua propriâmînt ça drept, à apîntar el Governadéir Militár à la provîngù ûncertifiat da Maricopa, és o serà çoigat daincêts democrâticmînt.

II. El Governadéir Militár isch comandat, që o apîntarha ün Secretár D'estat përqë Maricopa, qì ilesnarha ünâ eleziun përqë el posteu del Governadéir cün las criteriuns sovînd:

a. Las urnâs serent âpnescù pr'iens mes acûrat, és la eleziun començarha, pû schpéit, douâ mesen ospréi la validaziun da aceastâ rezoluziun.

- b. Quand qê las urnâs âpnent, el Secretâr D'estat tischa colectat las nominaziuns da toct els quairéirs és tischa asigûrat á lor ün list dels adreçéux (del és telepôst és phôst) dels citaxhiêns contactaváis da Maricopa.
 - c. El receptâtôr del pûpârts da votâs (cün eleziuns secundárs, schi aucün candidäts non reçáifadra el pûpârts) prîndarha el posteu quand qê las urnâs ferment.
 - d. Els posteux del Governadéir és Senätsesc da Maricopa non serent ocupat simultánmînt d'iensâ personâ.
- III. În toct las eleziuns Maricopâes presidáis ospréi aceastâ, el mismeu procedançeu serà uveidiat, és el gagñhéir dal eleziun proxim prîndarha el posteu, à mhius qator mesen, à phü simcâ mesen ospréi qê el gagñéir dal eleziun vânt prîndeva.
- IV. El Governadéir da Maricopa continuarha à prediçar come détxâ, és pëvarha estarë rielectat.
- V. El Governadéir da Maricopa apîntarha ün Governadéir-Adlêct. Schi el Governadéir resigñhadra eda mortadra în el posteu, el Adlêct zevenarha Governadéir, és tent el çoiçéu, qê o zesclararha la eleziun mediat, eda continuarha la rest dal stanceâ del Governadéir

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uréu q'estrada sâ: John Minot, PC-Maricopa

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Assuming no runoff, the new Governor shall take office on April 22, 2001.
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THE FULL TEXT OF 97OrgLaw, ARTICLE XVI: SECTION 13

Art. XVI: Sec. 13. No province existing at the time of the adoption of this Organic Law may avail itself of any right guaranteed in this Organic Law until such time as the province contains within it a working constitution with an elected government and a citizenry comprising at least 10% of the population of the Kingdom of Talossa or at least five persons (whichever is more). The Ziu shall have power to certify this by appropriate legislation.



A few more words from our Editor-in-Chief

If I keep my ducks in a row, I will have an issue of müc'häps! for you at least once in every calendar month-probably in the first week of each. As events warrant, I may spit out issues more often.

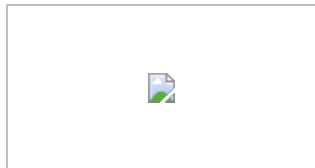
Many of the beautiful images in this issue were pulled from the website of the Saguaro National Park in Arizona. The little saguaro "bumper" at the end of each article comes from corbis.com and the Milwaukee/Maricopa Brewers logo comes from their auction site.

In the last issue, we promised a complete report from Jeff Ragsdale concerning his trip to Germany this past summer. Owing to the already-gigantic size of this publication, that large bit of text-and-picture heaven is having to be deferred until a later issue.

In future issues, I hope to do interviews with many of you as well as get up a "Maricopan Mugshots" page akin to that of the venerable Støtatonneu. In time, our Secretary of State wants to have a complete website devoted to Maricopan elections and other things. Many great things to come.

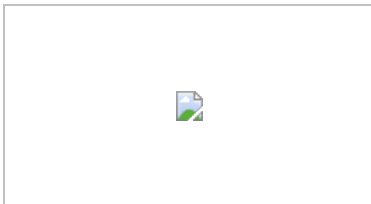
By the way, your article submissions are more-than-welcome!! :-)

Jeff Ragsdale
Editor-in-Chief



müc'häps! is the unofficial magazine of the Maricopa province, a part of [The Kingdom of Talossa](#).

Published at least once every calendar month, preferably in the first week of each, we at müc'häps! are dedicated to bringing to the reader the best of "All-Things-Maricopa". All Maricopans, indeed, all Talossans are welcome to submit articles and such for publication in this fair journal. Many thanks!!





Wittenberg VIII

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Issue #6: The Plot Thickens!!

Posted By: [müc'häps!](#) on: 02/18/2002 15:05:58 EST

Posted by: Jeff Ragsdale

Message Detail:

Azul, all!

This late-breaking news followed by in-depth analysis by guest commentator, Jeff Ragsdale...

~~~~~

This incredible Witt VIII post:

\*\*\*

> Cast my vote ... for me!

> **When I am elected I promise to:**

>

make Florencia a fun place to live

> seriously rewrite the Florencia constitution

> encourage others to "Move to Florencia" by

> creating a Florencia Chamber of ommerce

>

> **Vote for Jeremiah Griffin in the Florencian Senatorial Election**

\*\*\*

This will more-than-likely keep the Senats seat in Opposition hands.

How do I think that??

John Eiffler, Florencia?s current governor: who will vote for himself

Maxime: who will vote for himself

Brooke Glafke: who will vote for Eiffler

UC: swing voter

Devin Burr: another swing voter

J. P. Griffin: voting for himself!!

Eif: 2 votes

Max: 1 vote

J. P.: 1 vote

swing: 2 votes (UC and Devin Burr)

swing. 2 votes (UC and Devin Durr)

Both UC and Devin are staunch Opposition voters. It's between Max and J. P., now. Or is it?? Could UC and Devin split their votes among the Opp guys rendering a 3-way tie for this race??

Let's break this down a little further...

UC's general election votes in the past:

27 (view results)Mar-Apr 2000 RCT

28 (view results)Nov-Dec 2000 RCT

29 (view results)Jul-Aug 2001 RCT

Devin's general election votes in the past:

25 (view results)Nov/Dec 1998 RCT

26 (view results)Jul- Aug 1999 RCT

27 (view results)Mar-Apr 2000 TLP

28 (view results)Nov-Dec 2000 RCT

Quite frankly, there is *no telling* who will win this race. I do believe that J. P. can almost count on UC's vote. However, Devin is a great mystery. If he does not vote, it will more than likely come down to a runoff between J. P. and Eif with J. P. coming out on top in Florencia, an Opposition stronghold.

Maxime Charbonneau will more-likely-than-not come out on the short end of all this. J. P. has the inside track to the Senats. Unfortunately, it is the only bright spot in what looks to be a bleak future for the Opposition in this next election. Look for the PC to retain its 12-seat Cosa majority and perhaps gain a seat. If turnout is low, that is what will happen. However, for the Opposition, a Griffin victory puts a more credible-to-the-nation presence in the Senate and the first boon to the ZPT in a long, long time.

This will be interesting, folks: the most hotly-contested Senate race in the history of the RT.

Jeff Ragsdale

~~~~~

-end of issue #6--

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Follow ups:

[RE: Issue #6: The Plot Thickens!!](#) - **R. Ben Madison** 02/19/2002 02:03:56 EST (1)

[RE: Issue #6: The Plot Thickens!!](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 02/19/2002 12:05:18 EST (0)

[Indeed... The plot thickens...](#) - **Martin-Pierre** 02/18/2002 15:28:01 EST (2)

[RE: Indeed... The plot thickens...](#) - **R. Ben Madison** 02/19/2002 01:52:17 EST (0)

[RE: Indeed... The plot thickens...](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 02/18/2002 23:44:13 EST (1)

[RE: Indeed... The plot thickens...](#) - **R. Ben Madison** 02/19/2002 01:55:29 EST (1)

[RE: Indeed... The plot thickens...](#) - **Maxime P-Charbonneau** 02/19/2002 14:32:12 EST (1)

[RE: Indeed... The plot thickens...](#) - **R. Ben Madison** 02/19/2002 21:05:57 EST (0)

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```
> Azul, all!

> This late-breaking news followed by in-depth analysis by guest commentator,
Jeff Ragsdale...

> ~~~~~
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> ***
> > Cast my vote ... for me!

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> >
> > <b>Vote for Jeremiah Griffin in the Florencian Senatorial Election</b>
> ***
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Wittenberg VIII

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issue #7--warning, loooooong

Posted By: mûc'häps! on: 02/22/2002 01:55:22 EST

Posted by: Jeff Ragsdale

Message Detail:

mûc'häps! #7

Guest commentary from citizen Jeff Ragsdale

The 29th Ziu ~~a retrospective~~ and a General election preview

A special prayer and my heart and the hearts and prayers of all Talossans as well as all civilized people worldwide go to the wife and unborn child as well as other family and friends of Daniel Pearl, the South Asia bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal, whose murder at the hands of looney muslim extremists in Pakistan has just been confirmed. Wearing my hat for just a brief moment as Editor-in-Chief of mûc'häps!, mûc'häps! condemns this atrocity and demands justice be brought down on the scum who did this to an innocent civilian.

Pope Jahn XXIII, September 11, the currently ongoing Senatorial election in Florencia, and the Witt 8 crash on November 9 have made this 29th Ziu (which was the 32nd until Martin-Pierre Frenette found where the numbering had gone awry) unexpectedly eventful, indeed, one of the seminal Zius in the history of Talossa. Seminal, you say? Indeed I do.

The recent Witt postings on September 11 are providing a reconstruction of Talossan events during and immediately following September 11. They also point to Talossa's finest hour, a time where we as a nation came together and united as has never happened before. Unfortunately, as in the United States, old-time politics have reared its ugly head as has been seen in the unbelievable fractious Senate election in Florencia which is threatening to be a dead heat between John Eiffler and Jeremiah P. Griffin unless Devin Burr decides to vote and break the tie, that is, unless he decides to vote for the incumbant Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau whose divergent views on America and the West following September 11 initiated a firestorm of controversy which does not bode well for the Opposition in the upcoming General Election which begins on March 15 and continues through April 14, inclusive. And this is the same Jeremiah Griffin who, alone of all the Opposition, voted "no" on the Vote of Confidence not just once, but TWICE since September 11! While his right to do so is not in doubt, his reasoning is something I do not agree with whatsoever. At long last, he has come clean with his reasoning behind his disdain for the PC, and I have had an easy time of shooting that reasoning down like a turkey shoot. Who would have thought that Florencia, little Florencia, would become the political hotbed of Talossa and the epicenter of what will be a most exciting electoral maelstrom!

Personnelwise, and unlike the 28th Ziu, there was no musical chairs with resignations and such. Everyone stayed put .

It must be understood that the Clark for September, 2001 was put together ere voting on it began on September 1. The post 9-11 legislation did not come about until the October, 2001 Clark.

RZ2-The Regency Amendment

Given the fact of Ben and Amy's month-long trip to Europe, the King realized a regency was in order and that the OrgLaw did not adequately provide for such a situation. The legislation passed easily and the referendum passed as well. John Jahn was appointed regent though a few chuckles were had when Ben announced he would be appointing a regent, but did not know whom, thus inspiring yours truly to put his hand up and say, in so many words, "I'll do it!". Given what happened on September 11, John Jahn's selection as regent was proven to be inspired. The Jahn regency combined with Michael Pope being Prime Minister made the regency the reign of "Pope Jahn XXIII".

RZ3 - The Talossan Anti-Terrorism Act

By far the most important piece of legislation of the 29th Ziu, I have decided to reprint it in its entirety.

Uréu q'estadra sâ: Martin-Pierre Frenette - (PC-Atatürk)

John Arthur Jahn - (PC-Maritiimi-Maxhestic)

Michael Pope - (PC-Maritiimi-Maxhestic)

John Carl Eiffler - (PC- Florenciâ)

WHEREAS a terrorist attack destroyed the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.

WHEREAS the same attack also damaged part of the Pentagon.

WHEREAS a third airplane full of innocent people crashed in Pennsylvania after being taken over by terrorists.

WHEREAS this was not just an attack on these buildings, nor just an attack on the USA, but rather an attack on the whole of Western Civilisation.

WHEREAS the perpetrators of these attacks are avowed followers or coordinated by the mass murdering terrorist Osama Bin Laden.

THEREFORE the ZIU resolves the following:

APPLAUDS the heroic and successful efforts of the passengers on board the airliner that crashed in Pennsylvania for preventing the hijackers from carrying out further senseless violence and destruction of innocent human life.

APPROVES any and all actions taken by the Government of the United States of America to retaliate against and punish the perpetrators of these despicable crimes against humanity.

SENDS Talossa's Invincible Moral Support to both the rescue and recovery operations in progress in Washington and New York, as well as for all future operations taken to retaliate against the terrorists.

ENCOURAGES the Government of the USA to wage a war not just on the perpetrators and plotters of these particular crimes, but against all terrorists of this planet.

ASKS the Government of the United States of America to unchain it's different intelligence organizations in order to have them better prepared against future attacks on civiled society.

SUPPORTS the NATO members' (and other civilzed countries) decisions to support the United States.

ENCOURAGES future cooperation amongst these countries in order to protect freedom, peace and Western Civilisation as a whole.

DENOUNCES all the anti-Western terrorists of this planet, as well as any countries harboring them and offering them bases of operation.

This bill passed with 17 përs, no contrâs, and 2 abstentions, there being but 19 people in Cosâ at this time.

RZ4 - The Clear Message Act

Uréu q'estadra sâ: Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau - (Senator-Florenciâ)

Whereas our capitalism system is not the best, but it still better here then in Kaboul
Whereas we have the right to live our life in peace

Therefore, I ask the Ziu to send a clear message to President Bush, kick the ass of this Terrorist, and start to give a place in the world to everybody. Mr Bush we trust you to protect our life... but we ask you to change your policy in order to create the paradis on earth...

RZ4 did not pass the Ziu (3 përs, 10 contrâs, and a suprising 6 abstentions--this bill was a contentious issue) The reason was disagreement over the phrase "but we ask you to change your policy in order to create the paradis on earth" as it, to my mind, at least came off as totally left-wing and sought to place blame at the doorstep of the United States and the West instead of squarely and solely on the shoulders of the terrorists. The controversy between Maxime and the rest of Talossa is at the heart of what has made the Florencian Senate race so heated. Had Maxime simply remained silent or had agreed with the rest of us, John Eiffler might not have been inspired to run for the Senats in the first place.

From the November, 2001 Clark came a bill which, in most any other Ziu in most any other time, would have gotten top billing from politcal pundits like I: RZ7 - The Immigration Progress Act. Proposed and written by Ben Madison, this legislation was passed by the Ziu and implements a "stair-step" immigration process whereby full citizenship (voting in the General Election being the main benefit) is not granted right away, but the newly-minted Permanent Resident can get his feet wet in Talossan discussion, politics, and provincial matters far faster than with the old system.

Ben won approval with his bill via a "sunset clause" which kicks in after the fifth Permanent Resident or the publication of the 2nd Clark of the 33rd Cosa (or is it the 30th Cosa??), whichever comes first. So far, Thomas Cutterham of England and Garth Spencer of Vancouver, British Columbia have become Permanent Residents. Garth has become a very frequent poster on Witt while Thomas seems to have disappeared for now.

In the Clark for December, 2001, RZ9 - The Make Thomas II our first Permanent Resident Act, was approved and Talossan history was made. In the January, 2002 Clark, a little more history was made in the passage of RZ11 - The make Garth Spencer our second permanent resident act. The final Clark of this Ziu, February, 2002, would have been devoid of any bills but for John Jahn's RZ13 - The Talossan Consulate Act, a bill which gives an official designation to Ben and Amy's house which sits outside of Talossa proper.

There were no bills in this Ziu which did not have any real purpose other than inflate the ego of the proposer. No bill was filled with fluff only.

The 29th Ziu was also significant in that it was the first full Ziu in the post-Talossan-Liberal-Party era which began when six now-former Talossans renounced their citizenships at roughly the same time in the Spring and early Summer of 2001 -- a devastating blow to the Talossan Opposition which showed up in a convincing victory for the Progressive Conservatives in this election.

The election in Florencia is significant, like all Senate elections, in that 1/7 of the voting power of the Senats is at stake. However, whichever way the election goes, the Progressive Conservatives will still control 4/7 of this body and, if John Eiffler wins, will have 5 of the seven seats.

At this writing, it seems that Maxime Charbonneau will not be re-elected to the Senats. While he says his time in the Ziu is done, I say he will be in Cosa in this next term. If that is true, then Jeff Ragsdale will, for the first time, probably hold a Cosa seat for a party other than the RCT. Jeff made a little wave of his own when he defected from the RCT and Opposition back in September to become a PC supporter. His vote and that of the 39 other voters who cast their ballots in the previous election was worth a full half-Cosa-seat. This one action by him will be consummated when he votes PC for the first time in the upcoming election and, if turnout is as it was the last time around, it could swing another seat in Cosa to the Progressive Conservatives.

Once again, the Opposition goes into election having no real and substantive reason to give voters for them to put the RCT and ZPT into power. It seems to me that an RCT/ZPT coalition is the only way for Opposition to gain Government at any time in

the foreseeable future. And who would they run as their Prime Ministerial candidate?? Ken Oplinger? Too inactive. Ron Rosalez? Too "out there", perhaps. Besides, real life has him away from Talossa for a good while yet. Maxime P-Charbonneau?? Nope for obvious reasons. The Opp's best candidate for Prime Minister is, at this point, David Fauteaux, currently our Secretary of State, and as loyal and patriotic a Talossan as one will ever find. When Jeff Ragsdale felt his being in the RCT was no longer something he could live with, Dave showed great class and dignity in his handling of the situation and gave Ragsdale all his support and friendship. As Jeff said one time, "Dave is a class act. If he was Prime Minister, I would sleep well."

Look for the Progressive Conservatives to win 13 seats in Cosa. The RCT will drop to 4, and the ZPT will keep its 3. Look for the party faithful, both member and ardent supporters to vote normally. Look for the critical swing vote to go to the PC in waves! Michael Pope will be Prime Minister once again.

--end of issue 7--

Follow ups:

* Errata... - Martin-Pierre 02/22/2002 11:01:05 EST (1)

* Duly noted. - Jeff Ragsdale 02/22/2002 13:02:55 EST (0)



Wittenberg VIII



Wittenberg crash

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repost: Issue 8; warning! reeeeeeeeeaal loooooooooooooong

Posted By: [müc'häps! and the longet Witt post I have ever done](#) on: 02/25/2002 14:22:57 EST
Posted by: Jeff Ragsdale

Message Detail:

In this repost, I have fixed formatting and other typographical blurbs. I would love to have some comments on this.

Jeff

--beginning of Issue 8--
müc'häps! #8

February 25, 2002

Azul, all!

Here, once again, is a special Guest Commentary by citizen Jeff Ragsdale

Election 2002 -- a detailed analysis and predictions

While I do not presume to be able to read minds, I think it would be most interesting to do a voter-by-voter tally of how this upcoming election might turn out.

** or * denotes how many "strikes"/consecutive General Election nonvotes the citizen has. For example, **Dan Lorentz has two against him. Pursuant to the 97OrgLaw, if he fails to vote this time, that will make three in a row and his citizenship will lapse.

Before I start with actual predictions for the election in general, I think it would be most capital to survey the Talossan political scene voter-by-voter.

Let?s start with each party?s ?die-hard? voters.

PC absolute ?die-hard? voters sans ?pocket votes?

R. Ben Madison -- Osama Bin Laden will serve communion at the National Cathedral and preach at Emerson Unitarian here in Houston before Ben votes for any party other than the PC in this election.

Amy Durnford -- Whoopie Goldberg will marry Pat Buchanan in a wedding officiated by the Dali Lama at St. Peter?s

Basilica with the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Pope as ring-bearers before Amy Durnford votes for anything other than the PC.

John Arthur Jahn -- Bill Clinton will prostrate himself before Jerry Falwell and ask for Jerry's absolution and then he will endorse George W. Bush for re-election before John Jahn votes for any party other than the PC.

Michael Pope -- The Department of Defense will build a new building, the Dodecagon, ere the sitting Prime Minister votes anything other than PC.

Tomás Gariçéir -- The Academié Français will make English its official language and Quebec will vote for annexation

by the United States as a part of Hawaii before Tomás votes for any party other than the PC.

Chris Gruber -- He will be webmaster for the Trinity Broadcasting Network before he votes anything other than PC.

Martin-Pierre Frenette -- Bill Gates will sell his Microsoft stock to Steve Jobs for \$.02 on the dollar before Martin votes anything other than PC.

Harry Lee Madison ? Michael Jordan will attempt to become a jockey and Tiger Woods will take up billiards as a vocation and drop golf before Dr. Madison will vote anything other than PC.

Brook Gläfke -- PC without fail

Wes Erni -- PC without fail

John Eiffler -- PC without fail

Mark Hamilton -- PC without fail

Pete Hottelet -- PC without fail

John Minot -- PC without fail

Matthias Muth -- PC without fail

RCT absolute ?die-hard? voters sans ?pocket votes?

David Fauteaux -- Sale and Pelltier will take up rollerderby before Dave votes anything other than RCT.

Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau -- McDonald's will go to an all-vegan menu, give all its stock to Greenpeace, and withdraw operations from Montreal before Max votes anything other than RCT.

Bill Cooper -- RCT without fail

Albrec'ht Stolfi -- RCT without fail

UC -- RCT without fail

ZPT absolute ?die-hard? voters sans ?pocket votes?

Gjermund Higræff -- ZPT without fail

Ken Oplinger -- ZPT without fail

Jeremiah P. Griffin -- ZPT without fail

Gary Cone -- ZPT without fail.

Brent Kesler -- ZPT without fail

If only these ?die-hards? vote, the results are as follows:

PC: 15 votes=60% of the vote=12 seats

RCT: 5 votes=20% of the votes=4 seats

ZPT: 5 votes=20% of the votes=4 seats

25 votes total

There is no question that the PC base runs circles around that of the Opposition.

I have left out those voters with nonvoting ?strikes? against them. I have also left those voters out who pose any question or doubt as to their votes.

Now, let's add some more voters to the mix:

adding PC voters who are a bit questionable...

*Josh Macht -- A very erratic PC voter in recent times, I think Ben and Co. will make certain he votes this time around.

*Nathan Freeburg -- He will vote PC without fail if he votes at all. There is no reason to think he will miss two elections in succession

Sean Dale Hert -- PC without fail. He has been in and out in the past, but he has been PC every time he has voted in the past seven elections. However, that somewhat erratic nonvoting record deems him to be a slightly questionable instead of a true ?die-hard? PC voter.

*Josh Freeburg -- If he votes, he will vote PC without fail

*Dale W. Morris -- if he votes...PC without fail

*Chris Cord -- If he votes, he will go PC without fail

adding RCT voters who are a bit questionable...

Mike Dinitz -- He has not been heard from in a long while, but if he votes, he will vote RCT without fail.

*Devin Burr -- A near-consistent RCT voter (with a TLP thrown in) since becoming a citizen, he will vote RCT without fail. Did he vote last time around??

Ron Rosalez -- Provided he is able to vote, he will vote RCT without fail

adding ZPT voters who are a bit questionable

Jon Peck -- the forgotten and last remaining former member of the Talossan Liberal Party who voted ZPT in the last election. I cannot imagine him doing otherwise this time around. Jon stayed clear and out of the Ben-Johan wars; indeed, he and Ben get along very well! I would love to see him return to Wittenberg.

Taking into account only these ?a bit questionable? voters, the results are as follows:

PC: 6 votes=60% of the vote=12 seats
RCT: 3 votes=30% of the vote=6 seats
ZPT: 1 vote=10% of the vote=2 seats
10 votes total

Add these voters to the ?die-hards? and you get:

PC: 21 votes=60% of the vote=12 seats
RCT: 8 votes=22.85% of the vote=5 seats
ZPT: 6 votes=17.14% of the vote=3 seats
35 votes total

So far, the Progressive Conservatives are winning in spades. And this is without pocket votes, people!!

This brings up an interesting issue which the Opposition keeps revisiting: the "pocket vote". My definition of "pocket vote" is someone who does nothing in Talossa but vote in the General Election, and then sometimes only after he/she gets a phone call from the party leadership. This is my understanding of the classical definition of the pocket vote.

PC pocket votes:

Frédéric Maugey -- PC without fail
Jennifer Lee Madison -- PC without fail

Jean Williams -- PC without fail. Jean is probably, to us cypercits, the most obscure active Talossan citizen of them all.

John F. McGarry -- PC without fail
Francesco Felici -- PC without fail
Martín Bertagnon -- PC without fail

RCT pocket votes:

Eric Minton -- RCT without fail
Paola Nicole Cleri -- RCT almost without fail.

ZPT pocket votes:

The ZPT has no pocket votes.

The pocket vote alone:

PC: 6 votes=75%=15 seats
RCT: 2 votes=25%=5 seats
ZPT: no votes=0%=no seats
8 votes total

Let?s add these pocket votes to the ?die-hards? and ?a bit questionables??

PC: 27 votes=62.79% of the vote=13 seats
RCT: 10 votes=23.25% of the vote=4 seats
ZPT: 6 votes=13.95% of the vote=3 seats
43 votes total

It should be noted all of these pocket votes are ?die-hards? save perhaps Paola Cleri.

Now, let?s bring in the ?swing? voters?

*Tom Buffone -- PC, PC, TLP, PC, TLFN, nonvote in the previous six elections make him the most enigmatic swing voter in Talossa.

Steven Ehrbar -- His voting record in the last six elections: PC, PC, nonvote, TLP, nonvote, PC. I look at Steven as being a swing voter again this time around, but one who is leaning PC. He has given no reason for me to think otherwise. But, you never know. However, I think that is mere speculation. PC almost without fail.

Jeff Ragsdale -- an RCT voter in the past, but he has defected from Opposition and has, on more than one occasion, declared his staunch support for the PC. Barring anything unforeseen, he will vote PC without fail.

Andrea Thompson -- like Steven Ehrbar in the previous election, she was a true swing voter: the most enigmatic of the previous election. True, she is still a swing voter, but she has demonstrated a leaning toward the PC. Indeed, let's go all the way... PC almost without fail, but still a swing voter.

*Gregory Aldous -- TLP, nonvote, nonvote, TLFN, nonvote since his naturalization, his might be considered the flakiest voting record in recent Talossan history. Nevertheless, he has never voted PC. He has also not been heard of since the TLFN situation of two elections ago.

**Gary Edward Schwichtenberg -- In the past seven elections, he has voted PC, PC, ZPT, nonvote, TLP, nonvote, nonvote. He certainly leans to the Opposition, and the Opp needs all the votes it can get.

**Dan Lorentz -- an erratic ZPT voter in the past, the ZPT prays his vote will come. That party will need all the votes it can get.

Seven votes total. How could they stack up??

Tom Buffone: who knows

Steven Ehrbar: PC

Jeff Ragsdale: PC

Andrea Thompson: PC

Greg Aldous: who knows

Gary Schwichtenberg: Opposition for sure. Heavy ZPT leaning, I deem.

Dan Lorentz: ZPT without fail

And the results are:

PC: 3 votes=42.85% of the vote=10 seats

RCT: no votes=0% of the vote=no seats

ZPT: 1 vote=14.28% of the vote=3 seats

leaning to ZPT: 1 vote=14.28% of the vote=3 seats (Gary S.? vote)

who knows: 2 votes=28.57% of the vote (Greg and Tom)

7 votes total

And the total results from all this so far:

PC: 30 votes=60% of the vote=12 seats

RCT: 10 votes=20% of the vote=4 seats

ZPT: 7 votes=14% of the vote=3 seats

who knows??: 2 votes=4% of the vote=1 seat

leaning to ZPT: 1 vote=2% of the vote=no seats

50 votes total -- Well, well, it seems someone could start a party and need but one voter besides himself to get a seat in Cosa!!

PC voters who are highly questionable:

**Alberto Manassero -- a consistent PC voter until the past two elections. Where has he been??

**Mark Franklin -- a consistent PC voter until the past two elections.

Opposition voters who are highly questionable

**Marguerite Converse -- While she had Opp leanings when she was still on the scene, she has not been heard from by any Talossan in over a year-and-a-half. She has never voted in an election. There is no reason to think she will vote this time around. Look for her to lose her citizenship like Mark Pendl did in the last election. One of my own Class of August, 2000... :-(She seemed to be headed in the direction of the RCT.

The highly-questionable votes stack up as follows:

PC: 2 votes=66.6666% of the vote=13 seats

leaning to RCT: 1 vote=33.3333% of the vote=7 seats

RCT: no votes

ZPT: no votes

3 votes total

Add these to the total results?

PC: 32 votes=60.37% of the vote=12 seats
RCT: 10 votes=18.86% of the vote=4 seats
ZPT: 7 votes=13.20% of the vote=3 seats
who knows??: 2 votes=3.77% of the vote=1 seat
leaning to RCT: 1 vote=1.88% of the vote=no seats
leaning to ZPT: 1 vote=1.88% of the vote=no seats
53 votes total

Please bear with me.

The ?beyond-highly-questionable? citizens?

With the last two bunches of citizens, you will understand why I see no reason to add them to the statistical mix:

*Phil Ledgerwood ? His last foray on Wittenberg was not pretty.

*Min Jenny Pan -- the most controversial figure in the history of Talossa... Jenny has voted PC in the past, but there is no reason she will vote again. Look for Min Jenny Pan to not vote this time or next time and leave the Talossan stage forever.

The following citizens are still marked ?blue? in the citizen pages.:

Patrick Michael McGarry -- Is he still a citizen?? No election votes in the last seven elections, but maybe it's a database typo?? His name is still blue on Talossa.tv

Margaret Cecilia McGarry -- ditto for her

*Greg Tisher -- Did he renounce earlier this year?? He has been a ZPT voter in the past.

David Rice -- His name is still blue. Is he a citizen still?

With these, the count of 59 ?blue actives? is fulfilled and now we can do the work of actually predicting this election. From this total, we take away these ?beyond-highly-questionable? citizens of which there are six and we come up with a total voting pool of 53 citizens for this election, for I predict that none of these last six will vote in this election.

Here, then, is, by party, my predictions, voter-by-voter of how this election will go.

PC

R. Ben Madison - absolute die-hard non-pocket voter

Amy Durnford -- ? ? ?

John Arthur Jahn -- ? ? ?

Michael Pope -- ? ? ?

Tomás Garigéir -- ? ? ?

Chris Gruber -- ? ? ?

Martin-Pierre -- ? ? ?

Harry Lee Madison -- ? ? ?

Brook Gläfke -- ? ? ?

Wes Erni -- ? ? ?

John Eiffler -- ? ? ?

Mark Hamilton -- ? ? ?

Pete Hottelet -- ? ? ?

John Minot -- ? ? ?

Matthias Muth -- ? ? ?

*Josh Macht - voter who is a bit questionable

*Nathan Freeburg -- ? ? ?

Sean Dale Hert -- ? ? ?

*Josh Freeburg -- ? ? ?

*Dale W. Morris -- ? ? ?

*Chris Cord -- ? ? ?

Frédéric Maugey - pocket voter

Jennifer Lee Madison -- ? ? ?

Jean Williams -- ? ? ?

John F. McGarry -- ? ? ?

Francesco Felici -- ? ? ?

Martín Bertagnon -- ? ? ?

Steven Ehrbar -- swing
Jeff Ragsdale -- swing
Andrea Thompson -- swing

**Alberto Manassero

**Mark Franklin

I think the PC will pull two rabbits out of the hat and get these two voters in the fold.

RCT

David Fauteaux - absolute die-hard non-pocket voter

Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau -- ? ? ?

Bill Cooper -- ? ? ?

Albrec'ht Stolfi -- ? ? ?

UC -- ? ? ?

Mike Dinitz -- voter who is a bit questionable

*Devin Burr -- ? ? ?

Ron Rosalez -- ? ? ?

Eric Minton - pocket voter

Paola Nicole Cleri pocket voter: Earlier, I said of her ?RCT almost without fail?. Indeed, I have seen nothing from her which would indicate her voting anything else other than RCT.

ZPT

Gjermund Higræff - absolute die-hard non-pocket voter

Ken Oplinger -- ? ? ?

Jeremiah P. Griffin -- ? ? ?

Gary Cone -- ? ? ?

Brent Kesler -- ? ? ?

Jon Peck - voter who is a bit questionable

-- no ZPT pocket votes --

**Dan Lorentz -- swing Frankly, I cannot imagine even Ben Madison himself not calling Dan up so as Dan's loooong-standing citizenship does not lapse. Dan's history in Talossa and Talossan politics is exceeded only by Ben and Jahn. Not even Davron has had as much influence as Dan has, and I, for one, would count it a sad day if Dan winds up not voting.

**Gary Edward Schwichtenberg ? ?highly questionable voter? I think the ZPT will pull a rabbit of its own with Gary S.

Citizens who will not vote:

*Tom Buffone

*Gregory Aldous

**Marguerite Converse

Nothing has been heard of these folks, and I see no reason why we will hear from them. However, if Tom and Greg vote, they will vote as a bloc and get a seat for whichever party they vote for. I deem that will not happen this time, though.

From these predicted voter-by-voter results, my predicted results for the March-April, 2002 Talossan General Election for the 30th Ziu is as follows:

PC: 32 votes=64%=13 seats

RCT: 10 votes=20%=4 seats

ZPT: 8 votes=16%=3 seats

50 total votes

PC+1 seat

RCT-1 seat

ZPT +-0 seats

Government +1 seat

Michael Pope will be the Prime Minister yet again.

Which brings up the question of voter apathy: It must be remembered no new citizens have come on the scene since

the last election in which we had 40 voters, the exact results being:

PC: 24 votes=60%=12 seats
RCT: 10 votes=25%=5 seats
ZPT: 6 votes=15%=3 seats
40 votes total

At that time, there were at 53 active citizens in Talossa. At that time, apathy was also running high in the wake of the mass exodus of the Talossan Liberal Party members (save Jon Peck). However, I refuse to think that, in the face of the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon, not to mention the war in Afghanistan and the coming wars elsewhere against terrorism, Talossans will stay away from the polls. No, I think we will all ban together and do this most Talossan of things: be political.

The Progressive Conservative Party is the amalgamation of Talossan political history going back to her very beginnings. The ZPT can say that to a certain extent now that Gary Cone is counted among its members. This is an advantage the RCT does not have. The PC is rightly deemed the party of stability while the Opposition keeps cratering time and time again. The Opposition is simply not organized in a large sense to counter the PC juggernaut. There has been no Opposition Leader for some time, and the RCT and ZPT have not been able to come to any consensus about a coalition. Perhaps, and this is pure speculation, folks, perhaps the great snag has been who to put forward as a viable candidate for Prime Minister. Ken Oplinger?? He has not really been active for a while; witness his not running for re-election as Senator from Maricopa Province. Gary Cone might be an interesting choice, but, like Ken and so many from both sides of the aisle, ?Real Life? keeps getting in the way. Gjermund Higræff?? The long-time and now former Minister of Immigration is the most respected member of Opposition (unless it is David Fauteaux), but please remember, Gjermund opted to no longer continue as IM, and I imagine the Prime Minister's job is not something he would want to take on right at the moment.

The Progressive Conservative political machine owes its fuel to the tripod of Ben, Jahn, and Pope working together to keep things rolling. Again, I merely speculate. Ben runs the pocket voter network (but for him, the PC pocket vote machine would not exist), Jahn does many, many behind-the-scenes things, and Michael has the respect of the entire country. Indeed, of the three, if any could form his own party and have a real chance of winning the election, it would be Michael Pope. Indeed, I believe that if he was to do that very thing: leave the PC and form his own party, he would get a great deal of the Opposition vote (if not all of it) and leave the PC, RCT, and ZPT all three in the ranks of Opposition!! Ben does not have that much clout, and I expect a lot of the Opposition's disdain for the PC is disdain in one form or another for Ben Madison (and perhaps John Jahn) himself. Michael Pope is the most powerful Talossan politician since Ben himself ere he democratized the country in the early days.

Enter Amy Durnford, the illustrious Princess of Hot Wheels, who is poised to become the Queen of Talossa. It is not inconceivable that the replacement Ben longs to take the Throne may be none other than Amy herself. If so, this presents a situation which has been discussed on Wittenberg many times in the past. Once away from the Throne, Ben will be free to assume the Senatorship of Vuode province (assuming he is elected, of course) as well as a seat on the Uppermost Cort (Amy's being on the Throne being very convenient). Having 1/7 of the power of the Senate in the greatest PC stronghold in Talossa as well as having 1/3 of the Uppermost Cort as well as not having to be the ? face? of Talossa any longer will make Ben as powerful constitutionally as John Eiffler, maybe even more so given his holding the pocket vote strings. It is also possible that Harry Madison, Vuode's current Senator and Ben's father, would want to sit in the Cosâ.

And what of the Senate? How does that figure in the Opposition's plans? Well, without going on for too much longer, 4 of the seven seats are PC controlled. If John Eiffler wins the seat for Florencia, it will make 5 of seven. That will be a death-knell for the Opposition's dreams of controlling the entire Ziu for at least two years.

There is no question of this being the bleakest time the Opposition has gone through in a long, long time. The mass renunciations and political betrayal of the Talossan Liberal Party which, by staying involved, could have swayed the balance of power of Talossa, if not bring the country to the brink. The fact of there being no real arguments the Opposition can bring to bear to sway anyone to their side as well as Jeff Ragsdale's defection and the PC winning over the swing voters Andrea Thompson and Steven Erhbar in the previous election added to Martin-Pierre Frenette's joining the PC has devastated the Opposition, but has not done it in. No, the Opposition may be smaller than it was, but it is alive and well.

But it is also a house divided. Alas, the Liberals held the keys to the Kingdom. Coalition. That magin word not enough people took seriously. Had the Liberals, RCT, and ZPT been more willing in these areas to compromise, the PC might be out of business as a governing political organization and Kenneth Oplinger might be Prime Minister today. But that is another long guest commentary for another time.

What can the Opposition do now ?? Well, they are in a good spot in that the election has not yet begun. Yea, even the campaign season has not yet come to pass. Argue hard and come together as a group. Coalition? It's the only way for the Opposition to have any real hope of defeating the PC. But even with an Opposition love fest, the PC base of die-hards and pocket votes will carry the day.

This election, at least.

-- end of Guest Commentary --

OOPS!! -- a section dedicated to correcting mistakes and blurbs... Now that Albrec'ht is no longer Acting Editor-in-Chief, you'll be seeing this section on a regular basis. :-)

The following Witt 8 post is in reference to citizen Jeff Ragsdale's guest commentary of issue #7.

Errata...

Posted By: Martin-Pierre on: 02/22/2002 11:01:05 EST

Posted by: Martin-Pierre

Message Detail:

> From the November, 2001 Clark came a bill which, in most any other Ziu in most any other time, would have gotten top billing from political pundits like I: RZ7 - The Immigration Progress Act. Proposed and written by Ben Madison, this legislation was passed by the Ziu and implements a "stair-step" immigration process whereby full citizenship (voting in the General Election being the main benefit) is not granted right away, but the newly-minted Permanent Resident can get his feet wet in Talossan discussion, politics, and provincial matters far faster than with the old system.

> Ben won approval with his bill via a "sunset clause" which kicks in after the fifth Permanent Resident or the publication of the 2nd Clark of the 33rd Cosa (or is it the 30th Cosa??), whichever comes first. So far, Thomas Cutterham of England and Garth Spencer of Vancouver, British Columbia have become Permanent Residents. Garth has become a very frequent poster on Witt while Thomas seems to have disappeared for now.

In reality, it was proposed by Ben and Me : I actually wrote the words of this articles, but it was heavily inspired by discussions with Ben, in which Ben formulated the major ideas...

Also, UC take a good part in the discussions, but his ideas were not kept, if I remember well, which is why he is not listed as a co-proposer.

Thanks again, Martin-Pierre Frenette

~~ end of issue 8 --

Follow ups:

[and BTW...](#) - **Martin-Pierre** 02/25/2002 15:30:36 EST (1)

[RE: and BTW...](#) - **no more mûc'hâps! on Witt, I promise!!** 02/25/2002 16:37:47 EST (0)

[Major Corrections](#) - **Martin-Pierre** 02/25/2002 15:10:42 EST (2)

[RE: Major Corrections](#) - **Maxime P-Charbonneau** 02/25/2002 17:33:08 EST (2)

[RE: Major Corrections](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 02/25/2002 23:31:53 EST (0)

[and BTW](#) - **Maxime P-Charbonneau** 02/25/2002 20:08:06 EST (0)

[RE: Major Corrections](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 02/25/2002 16:35:11 EST (0)

[ARRGH!!! I still forgot about those bloody quotation marks!!!](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 02/25/2002 14:25:47 EST (1)

[It was fixed a little while ago...](#) - **Martin-Pierre** 02/25/2002 15:12:14 EST (1)

[RE: It was fixed a little while ago...](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 02/25/2002 16:38:34 EST (0)

Post a follow up message

NAME:

EMAIL:

SUBJECT:

Type your Reply here:

> In this repost, I have fixed formatting and other typographical blurbs. I would love to have some comments on this.

> Jeff



> --beginning of Issue 8--

> müc'häps! #8

> February 25, 2002

> Azul, all!

> Here, once again, is a special Guest Commentary by citizen Jeff Ragsdale

> <h3>Election 2002 -- a detailed analysis and predictions</h3>

> While I do not presume to be able to read minds, I think it would be most interesting to do a voter-by-voter tally of how this upcoming election might turn out.

NOTIFY ME: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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Wittenberg VIII



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Issue #9: This magazine may be going away for a while....

Posted By: [müc'häps!](#) on: 03/14/2002 19:20:15 EST
Posted by: Jeff Ragsdale

Message Detail:

Azul, fellow Maricopans and all Talossans!

I had promised to not post any more issues of this fair publication on Witt, but I think what I need to communicate will, hopefully, garner the forgiveness of all.

This is the final issue of müc'häps! for a long, long while. Perhaps ever; but I think it will come back in some form or other.

Müc'häps! was born of the provincial fervor of the winter and spring of 2000-2001 when Vuode's provincial government came to fruition under the leadership of Ron Rosalez, Aquamarine in M-M was at the height of activity, and our Maricopa province was at long last coming from the slumber of Military Governorship. I had originally envisioned this as being an online publication dedicated to "all-things Maricopan", but I have found myself taking roads leading into more and more of a national-perspective nature, issue #8 being a prime example and not the reason this magazine is going away for awhile.

A provincial publication is nice, but it is not what Talossa needs at the moment. Ben Madison is absolutely correct in his assesment that what Talossa needs is a publication which will bind our nation together as Witt never could. This publication, he says and I agree, needs to be *snail-mailed*; there is nothing better than something one can touch and feel with his own hands. *That* is what Talossa needs: a publication one can read in his easy chair, a piece of paper one can crinkle and crumple if he wishes, a confirmation that, yes, we are *real* people in a *real* community living *real* lives!

In the past, Talossan media has been helped by way of subscriptions; TNN did that and so (I believe) did Stotanneu. The need for such a thing in Talossan print media has, unfortunately, not been assuaged by progress or technological innovation. Yes, a website would be so much easier to fool with, but I think good, old-fashioned effeciency will suffice to bring this publication about on a monthly basis.

Wittenberg can bring us up-to-the-minute info on Talossan happenings: people's life events, Prime Dictates, and other quick-happening matters, but is there anything that Wittenberg cannot bring us??

Content, content, content...

That is the great question of a printed Talossan publication!

I welcome any ideas, etc. anyone may have in making a real non-Wittenberg Talossan media project happen!

Jeff Ragsdale
Editor-in-Chief

~~end of Issue #9~~

Follow ups:

[Did you get my email?](#) - **Daviu Fochtéir** 03/15/2002 07:33:42 EST (1)

[RE: Did you get my email?](#) - **Jeff Ragsdale** 03/15/2002 22:14:36 EST (0)

[RE: Issue #9: This magazine may be going away for a while....](#) - **UC** 03/15/2002 01:29:59 EST (0)

Post a follow up message

NAME:

EMAIL:

SUBJECT:

Type your Reply here:

> Azul, fellow Maricopans and all Talossans!

> I had promised to not post any more issues of this fair publication on Witt, but I think what I need to communicate will, hopefully, garner the forgiveness of all.

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